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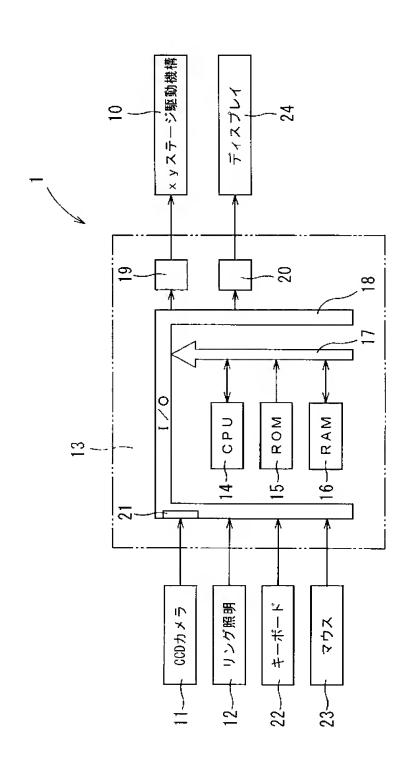
(54) 【発明の名称】結晶膜の検査方法および検査装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】結晶膜の結晶化度を正確に検査することができるとともに、所望の結晶化度が得られる結晶膜を形成することが可能となり、製造プロセスの安定稼動を図ることが可能となる結晶膜の検査方法および検査装置を提供する。

【解決手段】第1工程において、予め定める第1方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分を有する画像に基づいて、第1方向と交差する第2方向の濃度値の分布を表す濃度値の分布特性を求める。第2工程において、前記濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定する。このように複数列の帯状部分を有する画像に基づいて、濃度値の分布特性を求めておき、その分布特性に基づいて結晶膜の結晶化度を判定することができるので、たとえばフーリエ変換などを用いることなく結晶膜の結晶化度を確実に判定することができる。

【選択図】 図1



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

結晶膜を厚み方向一方から撮像した画像であって、予め定める第1方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分を有する画像に基づいて、第1方向と交差する第2方向の濃度値の分布を表す濃度値の分布特性を求める第1工程と、

前記濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定する第2工程とを有することを特徴とする結晶膜の検査方法。

【請求項2】

第2工程において、

前記分布特性に加えて、撮像した画像全体の濃度値の平均値に基づいて、結晶化度を判定することを特徴とする請求項1に記載の結晶膜の検査方法。

【請求項3】

第2工程において、

濃度値分布に対して、第2方向に走査しながら予め定める領域内の最小値を求める最小値化処理をして最小値分布を求め、この最小値分布に対して第2方向に走査しながら前記領域内の最大値を求める最大値化処理をして最大値分布を求め、前記濃度値分布と最大値分布との差を求めて第1モフォロジ分布を求める第1のモフォロジ処理および、

濃度値分布に対して、第2方向に走査しながら予め定める領域内の最大値を求める最大値化処理をして最大値分布を求め、この最大値分布に対して第2方向に走査しながら前記領域内の最小値を求める最小値化処理をして最小値分布を求め、この最小値分布と前記濃度値分布との差を求めて第2モフォロジ分布を求める第2のモフォロジ処理の

少なくともいずれか一方のモフォロジ処理によって求められるモフォロジ分布から予め定める寸法の濃度値成分を検出して、濃度値成分の数に基づいて、結晶化度を判定することを特徴とする請求項1に記載の結晶膜の検査方法。

【請求項4】

結晶膜に光を照射する照射手段と、

結晶膜を撮像する撮像手段と、

照射手段および撮像手段を用いて、結晶膜を厚み方向一方から撮像した画像であって、予め定める第1方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分を有する画像に基づいて、第1方向と交差する第2方向の濃度値の分布を表す濃度値の分布特性を求め、前記濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定する判定手段とを有することを特徴とする結晶膜の検査装置。

【請求項5】

照射手段は、円環状に形成されるリング照明であることを特徴とする請求項4に記載の結晶膜の検査装置。

【請求項6】

撮像手段は、電荷結合素子を用いた手段であることを特徴とする請求項4に記載の結晶膜の検査装置。

【請求項7】

非晶質膜を作製した後、アニール処理を用いて結晶膜を作製する方法において、 請求項 1 ~ 3 のいずれかに記載の検査方法によって得られる結晶化度に基づいて、アニール処理におけるエネルギーの過不足を判定し、この判定結果に基づいて、アニール処理によって前駆体に与えるエネルギーを制御することを特徴とする結晶膜の作製方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[00001]

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、結晶膜の検査方法および検査装置に関し、たとえば液晶ディスプレイパネルを製造する際に、エキシマレーザアニール装置などによる結晶化工程を経て用いられる技術に関する。

[0002]

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【従来の技術】

高解像度の要望が強い液晶表示素子およびイメージセンサーなどにおいては、駆動方式として、たとえばがラスなどの絶縁基板の一表面部に高性能な半導体素子を形成したアクティブマトリックス形の薄膜トランジスタ(TFT:Thin FiIm Transistor)が用いられている。前記TFTには、薄膜状のシリコン半導体を用いるのが一般的である。薄膜状のシリコン半導体は、非晶質シリコン(アモルファスシリコン)から成る非晶質シリコン半導体と、結晶性を有するシリコンから成る

[00003]

結晶性シリコン半導体との2っに大別される。

非晶質シリコン半導体は、成膜温度が比較的低く、気相成長法によって比較的容易に製造することが可能であり、量産性に富むといった特徴を有するので、最も一般的に用いられている。しかし非晶質シリコン半導体は、結晶性シリコン半導体が比べて導電性などの物性が劣るので、高速特性を得るために結晶性シリコン半導体がら成るTFTの製造技術の確立が強く求められている。すなわち基板の一表面部に、プラズマCVD(CVD:Chemical Vapor Deposition)法または減圧熱化学気相成長法などによって、アモルファスシリコン薄膜が形成され、固相成長結晶化工程と、レーザアニール結晶化工程とを順次経て、結晶性シリコン半導体膜(以後、単に結晶膜と呼ぶ場合もある)が形成される。

[0004]

特開2001-110861号公報には、エキシマレーザアニール装置によって結晶化された結晶膜を検査する技術が開示されている。前記公報に記載の従来技術には、基板の一表面部に所定の方向性を有する光を照射し、一表面部からの乱反射光の強度を計測し、その計測値に基づいて一表面部の凹凸状態を判定する技術が開示されている。前記乱反射光の強度は、エキシマレーザアニール装置におけるレーザ走査に起因する特定の方向性と周期性とを有する「すじ」の発生に着目したフーリエ解析によって計測される。

[00005]

エキシマレーザアニール装置の最適なレーザーエネルギー値を決定するには、レーザエネルギー値を決定するための基板(パワーモニター基板ともいう)を用意しておき、予め定められた範囲のレーザエネルギー値を用いて、パワーモニター基板にレーザエネルギーを付与する。その結果を目視観察またはラマン分光計測のような手段で計測して結晶化度を確認する。その後、所望の結晶化度が得られた場所に対応するレーザエネルギー値を用いてエキシマレーザアニール装置を稼動させる。

- [00006]
- 【発明が解決しようとする課題】

このような従来技術では、結晶膜の凹凸状態に少なくとも一定の周期性があることを前提としており、前記周期性に基づいて、フーリエ変換を用いて結晶膜の結晶化度を判定している。しかし、エキシマレーザアニール装置によって実際に結晶化された結晶膜は、その凹凸状態に周期性があるものはほとんど見当たらない。したがって結晶膜の凹凸状態の周期性に基づいて、フーリエ変換を用いて判定する技術は、非実用的であるだけでなく汎用性が低い。

[0007]

レーザーエネルギー値と結晶化度との間には、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザーエネルギー値よりも小さい領域で相関性がある。換言すれば、前記小さい領域において、レーザーエネルギー値が大きくなれば、結晶膜の結晶化度は高くなる。しかし、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザーエネルギー値を超える領域においては、レーザーエネルギー値と結晶化度との間には、逆相関性がある。換言すれば、前記領域において、レーザーエネルギー値が大きくなれば、結晶膜の結晶化度は低くなる。

[0008]

したがって従来技術では、結晶性不良および結晶化度を仮に検出できたとしても、それがレーザエネルギー値の不足によるものか過度によるものか区別がつかないので、エキシマ

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レーザアニール装置への正確なフィードバックができない。 さらにレーザーエネルギー制御精度には限界があり、レーザー照射の都度、 たとえば約3%以上5%以下程度のレーザーエネルギー値のゆらぎがあるので、レーザー照射対象に対するエネルギー強度は不安定化するだけでなく、 結晶膜は、 必然的に不規則な周期性を有する凹凸状態となる。 したがって前述のフーリエ解析による強度計測では、 十分な感度が得られない。

[0009]

前述した目視観察でもって結晶膜の結晶化度を確認する技術では、観察者の主観的観察による判定ばらつきが発生するすえ、ラマン分光計測で結晶化度を確認する技術では、オフライン計測が発生して工程数が増え、計測時間が増大する。

[0010]

したがって本発明の目的は、結晶膜の結晶化度を正確に検査することができるとともに、 所望の結晶化度が得られる結晶膜を形成することが可能となり、製造プロセスの安定稼動 を図ることが可能となる結晶膜の検査方法および検査装置を提供することである。

[0011]

【課題を解決するための手段】

本発明は、結晶膜を厚み方向一方から撮像した画像であって、予め定める第1方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分を有する画像に基づいて、第1方向と交差する第2方向の濃度値の分布を表す濃度値の分布特性を求める第1工程と、

前記濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定する第2工程とを有することを特徴とする結晶膜の検査方法である。

[0012]

本発明に従えば、第1工程において、結晶膜を厚み方向一方から撮像した画像であって、予め定める第1方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分を有する画像に基づいて、第1方向と交えする第2方向の濃度値の分布を表す濃度値の分布特性を求める。次に第2工程におりの計記濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定する。この濃度値の分布特性を求めておき、この濃度値の分布特性を求めておき、この濃度値の分布特性を求めておき、この濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、満度値の分布特性を求めておき、この濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を削定することができる。したがって前記公報に記載の従来技術のように、フーリエ変換を用いて、結晶膜の凹凸状態に周期性があるものととなく、結晶膜の結晶化度を確実に判定することができる。それ故、本検査方法の汎用性を高く、結晶膜の結晶化度を確実に判定することができる。それ故、本検査方法の汎用性を高くすることが可能となる。

[0013]

また本発明は、第2工程において、

前記分布特性に加えて、撮像した画像全体の濃度値の平均値に基づいて、結晶化度を判定することを特徴とする。

[0014]

本発明に従えば、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定する第2工程にあいて、濃度値の分布特性に加えて、撮像した画像全体の濃度値の平均値に基づいて、結晶化度を判定することができる。つまり結晶化度と濃度値とは、相関性があるが、画像全体のうち、たとえば1つの帯状部分の中でも、与えられるエネルギーの分布特性などによって、濃度値は第1方向に沿って変動する。したがって1つの結晶膜にあける濃度値に対する結晶化度を、一層客観的に判断するために、撮像した画像全体の濃度値の平均値を求め、この画像全体の濃度値の平均値と、前記第1工程で求めた第2方向の濃度値の分布特性とに基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定している。したがって、結晶膜の結晶化度を、従来技術のものよりも正確にかつ簡単に判定することが可能となる。

[0015]

また本発明は、第2工程において、

濃度値分布に対して、第2方向に走査しながら予め定める領域内の最小値を求める最小値

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化処理をして最小値分布を求め、この最小値分布に対して第2方向に走査しながら前記領域内の最大値を求める最大値化処理をして最大値分布を求め、前記濃度値分布と最大値分布との差を求めて第1モフォロジ分布を求める第1のモフォロジ処理および、

濃度値分布に対して、第2方向に走査しながら予め定める領域内の最大値を求める最大値化処理をして最大値分布を求め、この最大値分布に対して第2方向に走査しながら前記領域内の最小値を求める最小値化処理をして最小値分布を求め、この最小値分布と前記濃度値分布との差を求めて第2モフォロジ分布を求める第2のモフォロジ処理の

少なくともいずれか一方のモフォロジ処理によって求められるモフォロジ分布から予め定める寸法の濃度値成分を検出して、濃度値成分の数に基づいて、結晶化度を判定することを特徴とする。

[0016]

本発明に従えば、第2工程において、第1のモフォロジ処理および第2のモフォロジ処理の、少なくともいずれか一方のモフォロジ処理によって求められるモフォロジ分布から、予め定める寸法の濃度値成分を検出し、この濃度値成分の数に基づいて、結晶化度を判定することができる。このように予め定める寸法の濃度値成分を検出したうえで、この濃度値成分の数に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定することができるので、濃度値の定量化を行ったうえで、結晶化度を、従来技術のものよりも正確にかつ簡単に判定することが可能となる。

[0017]

また本発明は、結晶膜に光を照射する照射手段と、

結晶膜を撮像する撮像手段と、

照射手段および撮像手段を用いて、結晶膜を厚み方向一方から撮像した画像であって、予め定める第1方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分を有する画像に基づいて、第1方向と交差する第2方向の濃度値の分布を表す濃度値の分布特性を求め、前記濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定する判定手段とを有することを特徴とする結晶膜の検査装置である。

[0018]

本発明に従えば、照射手段および撮像手段を用いて、結晶膜を厚み方向一方から撮像する。判定手段は、予め定める第1方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分を有する画像に基づいて、第1方向と交差する第2方向の濃度値の分布を表す濃度値の分布特性を求める。その後、前記濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定する。とができるので、たとえばフーリエ変換を用いて、結晶膜の結晶化度を確実に判定することができる。したかって前記公報に記載の代来技術のように、フーリエ変換を用いて、結晶膜の凹凸状態の周期性があるものだけを検査するのではなく、本発明においては、結晶膜の凹凸状態の周期性に依存することなく結晶膜の結晶化度を確実に判定することができる。それ故、本検査装置の汎用性を高くすることが可能となる。

[0019]

また本発明は、照射手段は、円環状に形成されるリング照明であることを特徴とする。

[0020]

本発明に従えば、検査対象の結晶膜に、検査光を全方位から照射することが可能となる。したがって、結晶膜の凹凸状態に起因する乱反射による濃度値の読取り誤差を解消することができる。しかも、第1および第2方向の任意の検査位置で、結晶膜を撮像し検査することが可能となるので、照射手段に対する結晶膜の検査位置調整に手間がかからず、検査時間を大幅に短縮することができる。

[0021]

また本発明は、撮像手段は、電荷結合素子を用いた手段であることを特徴とする。

[0022]

本発明に従えば、電荷結合素子を用いた手段によって、第1方向に延びる複数列の帯状部

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分を有する画像を、撮像することが実現される。

[0023]

また本発明は、非晶質膜を作製した後、アニール処理を用いて結晶膜を作製する方法において、

前記りずれかに記載の検査方法によって得られる結晶化度に基づりて、アニール処理におけるエネルギーの過不足を判定し、この判定結果に基づりて、アニール処理によって前駆体に与えるエネルギーを制御することを特徴とする結晶膜の作製方法である。

[0024]

本発明に従えば、非晶質膜を作製した後、アニール処理を用いて結晶膜を作製した後、前記いずれかに記載の検査方法によって得られる結晶化度に基づいて、アニール処理におけるエネルギーの過不足を判定することができる。この判定結果に基づいて、アニール処理で前駆体に与えるエネルギーを制御することができ、以後、アニール処理を用いて結晶膜を作製する際、所望の結晶膜の結晶化度を実現することが可能となる。

[0025]

【発明の実施の形態】

図1は、本発明の実施形態に係る結晶膜の検査装置1の制御系のブロック図であり、図2は、結晶膜2の検査装置1の概略斜視図である。本実施形態は、たとえば液晶ディスプレイを製造する際に用いられる結晶性シリコン半導体膜2(以後、単に結晶膜2と呼ぶ場合もある)を検査する検査装置1に、本発明の検査装置を適用した場合の一例を示す。以下の説明は、結晶膜2の検査方法および、後述するエキシマレーザアニール装置3の制御方法についての説明をも含む。

[0026]

図4は、基板4を厚み方向に拡大して示す断面図であって、基板4の一表面部に、結晶膜2を形成する工程を段階的に示す概略説明図である。図5は、エキシマレーザアニール装置3と、結晶膜2の帯状部分との関係を示す説明図である。図4(ん)に示される基板4は、電気絶縁性材料であるたとえばガラスなどから成る厚み方向から見てたとえば長方形の平板状基材5の表面部5んに、非晶質膜としての非晶質シリコン層6が形成されて構成される。非晶質シリコン層6は、たとえばプラズマCVD(CVD:Chemical VaPor DePosition)法によって形成され、たとえば約1000歳以上1500歳以下程度の膜厚を有する。

[0027]

次に図4(6)に示すように、非晶質シリコン層6の一表面部6のに、たとえば酸化液が塗布され、この酸化液の働きによって酸化膜7が形成される。酸化膜7の一表面部7のに図示外の結晶化促進液が塗布され、その後図4(c)に示すように、酸化膜7の一表面部7のに触媒堆積層8が形成された図4(c)に示される基板4は、非晶質シリコン層6の結晶化が始まる温度、たとえば約550℃以上でもって加熱されて非晶質シリコン層6の結晶化が進行する。非晶質シリコン層6の結晶化がある程度進行した後、エシキマレーザアニール装置3を用いて、非晶質シリコン層6に対しレーザ光Rのを照射する。その結果、非晶質シリコン層6は一度溶融し、冷却固化過程を経て多結晶化する。つまり基板4の一表面部に結晶膜2が形成される。

[0028]

前記結晶膜2を検査する検査装置1は、メンステージ9~、メンステージ駆動機構10と、撮像手段としての電荷結合素子カメラ11(CCDカメラ:CkarbeCouPled Deviceカメラ)と、照射手段としてのリング照明12と、判定手段としての制御装置13とを有する。メンステージ9は、基板4を吸着支持するステージであって、長方形状のステージの長手方向に沿った×方向と、吸着支持された基板4の厚み方向および×方向に直交するシ方向とに移動可能に構成されている。メンステージ駆動機構10は、CCDカメラ11およびリング照明12に対し、結晶膜2の任意の一部分を検査対象位置に選択的に移動駆動する機構である。このメンステージ駆動機構10は、メンステージ9

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を×方向に移動駆動可能な駆動源を有する×方向駆動機構10のと、××ステージ9をメ 方向に移動駆動可能な駆動源を有する×方向駆動機構106とを有する。

[0029]

CCDカメラ11は、基板4の厚み方向一方(矢符A1にて示す)に支持され、基板4に形成された結晶膜2を撮像可能に配置して設けられている。このCCDカメラは、たとたば約10mm×10mmの矩形状の領域を撮像可能に構成されている。リング照明12は、たとえばハロゲンランプから成り、メンステージ9に吸着支持された基板4の結晶膜2に光を照射するように構成されている。リング照明12は、円環状に形成されるとともに、CCDカメラ11のレンズ11の付近部を囲み、リング照明12の仮想中心軸が前記厚み方向に平行となるように設けられている。またリング照明12は、結晶膜2の検査対象位置に、前記厚み方向に対し斜め方向から全方位で検査光を照射するように構成されている。

[0030]

制御装置18は、中央演算処理装置14(CPU:Central Processin 別のは、中央演算処理装置14(CPU:Central Processin (R M には)と口ム15(R OM:Read Only Memory)とから成るマイクロコンピュータと、バス17と、入出カインタフェース18と、駆動回路19、20とで構成されている。中央演算処理装置14と口ム15とラム16とは、バス17を介して入出カインタフェース18に電気的に接続されている。制御装置18の内部において、入出カインタフェース18には画像ボード21が電気的に接続され、この画像ボード21とCCDカメラ11とが電気的に接続されている。入出カインタフェース18には、リング照明12、入力手段であるキーボード22およびマウス28がそれぞれ電気的に接続されている。

[0031]

[0032]

入出カインタフェース18には、駆動回路19、20を介して××ステージ駆動機構10、ディスプレイ24がそれぞれ電気的に接続されている。ロム15には、後述する濃度値の分布特性を求め、結晶膜2の結晶化度を判定するプログラムが格納されている。本プログラムは中央演算処理装置14にて実行される。ラム16には、後述する濃度値成分の数を一時的に記録するメモリが格納されている。また、ラム16には、撮像された画像Sを一時的に記録し、ディスプレイ24に常時出力するためのメモリなどが格納されている。

図6は、レーザエネルギーと結晶化度あよび表面粗さとの関係を示す図表であり、図7は、基板4の一表面部の結晶膜において、結晶化度の低い結晶膜2Aを表す斜視図およびやの部分拡大図である。図8は、基板4の一表面部の結晶膜において、結晶化度の高い結晶膜2Bを表す斜視図およびやの部分拡大図である。非晶質シリコン層6に対し、照射するレーザ光Rののレーザエネルギーが所望の値よりも低い場合には、結晶膜の結晶化度は、所望の100パーセントよりも低く、結晶膜の表面粗さも低い傾向にある。また、照射するレーザ光Rののレーザエネルギーが所望の値よりも高い場合には、結晶膜の表面粗さは低い傾向にある。図8に示すように、結晶膜2Bの結晶化度が高い場合には、白丸で表示される結晶粒径のは、図7に示す結晶粒径よりも大きく隆起して、たとえば直径約0.5μm程度に形成される。

[0033]

CCDカメラ11で撮像された結晶膜2の画像8は、予め定める第1方向に相当するメ方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分25を有する。エキシマレーザアニール装置8は、予め定められるパルス数で発振されてレーザ光R のを照射するように構成されている。また、エキシマレーザアニール装置8は、照射対象の非晶質シリコン層6に対し、所定のメ方向長さと、メ方向と直交状に交差する第2方向に相当する所定の×方向幅とを有する矩形状のレーザ光R のを照射するように構成されている。このエキシマレーザアニール装置8と、前記×ソステージ駆動機構10と略同等の駆動機構とで協働して、非晶質シリコン層6を有する基板4を×方向に送りつつ前記レーザ光R のを照射する。

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[0034]

このように基板4をある送り速度で×方向に送りつつ、エキシマレーザアニール装置3は、前記矩形状のレーザ光Rのを予め定められるパルス数で発振することによって、前記画像8には、メ方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分25が形成される。ただし、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値よりもかなり小さいレーザエネルギー値で照射された場合には、帯状部分25は皆無となる。また、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値が得られるレーザエネルギー値がけられるレーザエネルギー値で開射された場合にも、帯状部分25は皆無となる。各帯状部分25の帯幅は、たとえば前記パルス数の整数倍に略相当する。

[0035]

図3は、結晶膜2の結晶化度を判定する工程を段階的に示すフローチャートである。ここで8i(i=1, 2, 3,)はステップを示す。図9および図10は、濃度値成分26, 27の数を求める方法を示すフローチャートである。ここで8i(i=10, 11, 12,)はステップを示す。図11は、白の濃度値成分26の数を求める方法を段階的に示す説明図であり、図12は、黒の濃度値成分27の数を求める方法を段階的に示す説明図である。図3のステップ1および2、図9のステップ10および11に示すように、基板4すなわち結晶膜2の一部分を、メンステージ駆動機構10によって検査対象位置に移動させ、この結晶膜2に、リング照明12によって光を照射する。CCDカメラ11によって撮像される画像8(原画像8ともいう)は、帯状部分25がソ方向に沿って直線状に撮像される。

[0036]

[0037]

【数 1 】

 $P_{x} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{v=0}^{N-1} p_{xv}$... (1)

[0038]

[0039]

第2のモフォロジ処理は、前記濃度値分布に対して、×方向に走査しながら予め定める領域内の最大値を求める最大値化処理をして最大値分布を求め、この最大値分布に対して×方向に走査しながら前記領域内の最小値を求める最小値化処理をして最小値分布を求め、この最小値分布と前記濃度値分布との差を求めて第2モフォロジ分布を得ることができる。第2のモフォロジ処理は黒モフォロジ処理とも呼ばれる。図12(c)および図12(む)が、第2モフォロジ分布に相当する。具体的に白モフォロジ分布は、式(2)を演算

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することで得られ、黒モフォロジ分布は、式(3)を演算することで得られる。

[0040]

【数2】

[0041]

式(2)~(5)のすちMin[]は、[]の中の数列の最小値を選出する演算子である。たとえば白モフォロジ処理を実行する場合、すなわち白の帯状部分25を抽出する場合には、図11(b)に示される1次元濃度値の分布特性すなわち濃度値分布に対して、×方向に走査しながら予め定める領域f(フィルタサイズfともいう)内の最小値を求める。次に、この最小値かので対して×方向に走査しながら前記領域f内の最大値を求める。次に、この最小値分布に対して×方向に走査しながら前記領域f内の最大値を求める。ここで、前記フィルタサイズfより幅の小さい白の帯状部分25については、この白モフォロジ処理によって復元されないので、元の前記濃度値分布と最大値分布との差を求めて、図11(e)に示すように、フィルタサイズfより小さい白の帯状部分すなわち濃度値成分26だけを抽出することが可能となる。

[0042]

式(2)~(5)のすちMの×[]は、[]の中の数列の最大値を選出する演算子である。たとえば黒モフォロジ処理を実行する場合、すなわち黒の帯状部分25を抽出する場合には、図12(b)に示される濃度値分布に対して、×方向に走査しながら予め定めるフィルタサイズ f 内の最大値を求める最大値化処理であって、図12(c)の最大値化処理をして最大値分布を求める。次に、この最大値分布に対して×方向に走査しながらフィルタサイズ f 内の最小値を求める最小値化処理であって、図12(d)の最小値化処理をして最小値分布を求める。次に、最小値分布と前記濃度値分布との差を求めて、図12(e)に示すように、フィルタサイズ f より小さい黒の帯状部分すなわち濃度値成分27だけを抽出することが可能となる。

[0043]

次にステップ15またはステップ19において、白および黒の帯状部分の特徴を定量化する方法として、位置、幅、コントラストというパラメータを導入する。ある適当な濃度値のしきい値に対して、やれを超過する画素が連続する範囲を1つの帯状部分とみなし、連続画素数を幅ん、連続画素列の並び方向中央付近部を位置×、最大濃度値をコントラストとして定義し、図11(c)~(e)、図12(c)~(e)に対して適用して、予め定める寸法の濃度値成分26、27を検出する。ステップ17においては、1つのフィルタサイズ f に対して抽出された白の濃度値成分26の数を、帯状部分25の数としてラム16の図示外のメモリに一時的に記録する。

[0044]

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を2倍にした場合の抽出結果は、その前のフィルタサイズ f₀で抽出された濃度値成分も含まれているので、重複して計上される濃度値成分が存在することになる。

[0045]

したがって重複して計上される濃度値成分を排除する方法として、ステップ16、ステップ20において、幅んがその前のフィルタサイズ f o 以下の濃度値成分は数に計上しない処理を実行する。ただし、最初のフィルタサイズ f o のときこのステップ16、20は省略する。このようにフィルタサイズ f o において、ステップ14の白モフォロジ処理、ステップ15の濃度値成分26の抽出、ステップ17のその数をラム16のメモリに一時的に記録、ステップ18の黒モフォロジ処理、ステップ19の濃度値成分27の抽出、ステップ21においてその数をラム16のメモリに一時的に記録するサブルーチンを実行する

[0046]

次に、フィルタサイズ f。を2倍したフィルタサイズ 2 f。にあいて、白モフォロジ処理、濃度値成分 2 6 の抽出、重複した濃度値成分 2 6 の排除、白の濃度値成分 2 6 の数の計上、黒モフォロジ処理、濃度値成分 2 7 の抽出、重複した濃度値成分 2 7 の排除、実になる 2 7 の排除、力ィルタサイズ f。を4倍したフィルタサイズ 4 f。において、白の濃度値成分 2 6 の数の計上および黒の濃度値成分 2 7 の数を計上するサブルーチンを実行する。やしてフィルタサイズ fがQになる を値成分 2 7 の数を計上するサブルーチンを実行する。やしてフィルタサイズ fがQになる ででのサブルーチンを実行する。ただし、フィルタサイズ Qは、 画素 Nを 2 で除した値ででないり値とする。その後、ステップ 2 5 に移行して白モフォロジ処理の各フィルタサイズ f。、 Qで得られた白の濃度値成分 2 6 の数と、黒モフォロジ処理の各フィルタサイズ f。、 Qで得られた黒の濃度値成分 2 7 の数とでも算してディスプレイ 2 4 に出力する。この出力された数を、帯状部分発生度合いとして結晶膜 2 の評価に用いる。

[0047]

図13は、フィルタサイズfとコントラストしきい値Cfとの関係を示す図表であり、図 14は、フィルタサイズfと演算対象となる基準画素Kとの関係を示す説明図であり、図 15は、フィルタサイズfおよびコントラストしきい値Cfの具体的な設定例を示す図表 である。フィルタサイズをfo,2fo,4fo, ,Qと多段階にするのは、たとえば 人による目視確認によって、各フィルタサイズ f_0 , $2f_0$, $4f_0$, , Qすなわち各 帯状部分25の幅に最も適したコントラストしきい値CFを設定することに起因している 。っまり人は、細い帯状部分25は少々コントラストが低くても見分けられるが、幅の広 い帯状部分25はコントラストが大きくないと見分けられないという視覚特性いわゆるM TF特性(MTF:Modulation Thansfeh Function)を有 する。このようなMTF特性を利用するために、フィルタサイズfを多段階に設定し、各 フィルタサイズfo, 2fo, 4fo, , Qすなわち帯状部分25の幅に最も適したコ ントラストしきい値を、目視確認によって設定することができる。なお各フィルタサイズ fo, 2fo, 4fo, , Qは、たとえばノイズの影響を無視でき、感度が良好なサイ ズが経験的に適用されている。前記コントラストしきい値CFは、具体的にはフィルタサ イズチの関数として、CF=瓜・fbのように定義することができる。ただしム,bは定 数とする。

[0048]

図16は、エキシマレーザアニール装置3のエネルギー制御値(レーザエネルギー値ともいう)と、撮像した画像3全体の濃度値の平均値AVおよび帯状部分25の数区との関係を示す図表であり、図17は、エキシマレーザアニール装置3のエネルギーの強度と結晶膜2の画像Sとの関係を示す説明図であり、図18は、検査装置1とエキシマレーザアニール装置3のレーザエネルギー値と結晶化度との間には、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値よりも小さい領域において、レーザエネルギー値が大きくなれば、結晶膜2の結晶化度および濃度値の平均値は高くなる傾向にある。所望の結晶化度が得られるレ

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ーザエネルギー値を超える領域においては、レーザエネルギー値が大きくなれば、結晶膜の結晶化度および濃度値の平均値は低くなる傾向にある。

[0049]

またエキシマレーザアニール装置3のレーザエネルギー値と、モフォロジ処理によって得られた濃度値成分の数区との間には、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値よりも小さい領域において、レーザエネルギー値の大小に関わらず前記濃度値成分の数区は「0」となる。所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値を超える領域においては、レーザエネルギー値が大きくなれば、濃度値成分の数区は大きくなる傾向にある。具体的に図17(の)は、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値よりもかなり小さいレーザエネルギー値で照射された場合の結晶膜2Cの撮像画像8の部分拡大図であり、帯状部分は皆無となる。

[0050]

図17(b)は、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値で照射された場合の結晶膜2Dの撮像画像Sの部分拡大図であり、白の帯状部分25と黒の帯状部分25とが混在されている。図17(c)は、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値よりもやや大きいレーザエネルギー値で照射された場合の結晶膜2Eの撮像画像Sの部分拡大図であり、白の帯状部分25と黒の帯状部分25とが混在されている。図17(d)は、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値よりもかなり大きいレーザエネルギー値で照射された場合の結晶膜2Fの撮像画像Sの部分拡大図であり、帯状部分は皆無となる。

[0051]

したがってエキシマレーザアニール装置3による結晶化工程の直後に、生産される全基板4の結晶膜2の検査つまり全数検査、または全ての生産ロット単位内での結晶膜2の抜取り検査をして、濃度値の平均値AVと帯状部分の数区の変動を、ディスプレイ24で常に監視することによって、濃度値の平均値AVがあるレベルを下回りかつ帯状部分の数区が「0」になった場合には、レーザエネルギー値は、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値よりも大きくなっていることを即座に検出し得る。濃度値の平均値AVがあるレベルを下回りかつ帯状部分の数区が「0」でない場合には、レーザエネルギー値は、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値よりも大きくなっていることを即座に検出し得る。このように2つの関係すなわち、撮像した画像全体の濃度値の平均値AVとレーザエネルギー値との関係と、帯状部分の数区とレーザエネルギー値との関係と、サンエスルギー値の出力異常を即座に検知することができ、不所望の結晶化度の結晶膜すなわち不良基板を排除することが可能となる。

[0052]

また、検査装置1によって得た撮像画像8の基板4上の位置すなわち×ソ座標、画像全体の濃度値の平均値AV、帯状部分の数区などの情報を、制御部28を介してエキシマレーザアニール装置3にフィードバックすることができる。制御部28は、エキシマレーザアニール装置3とは別体に設けられている。制御部28は、前記情報に基づいて、エキシマレーザアニール装置3に対して主にレーザエネルギー値などの運転条件を変更する指令を送る。

[0053]

具体的には、制御部28は、前記×ソ座標、濃度値の平均値AV、帯状部分の数区などの情報と、図16に示すレーザエネルギー値と濃度値の平均値との関係を予め記憶しておく図示外の記憶手段を有し、これによって基板4上の×ソ座標でレーザエネルギー値が、所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値に対してどの程度過不足があったかを判断することができる。

[0054]

制御部28での判定の結果、基板4全面部についてレーザエネルギー値が一定量不足または一定量過多である場合、エキシマレーザアニール装置3に対してエネルギー制御量を一定量だけ上げるまたは下げる指令を送ることによって、次の基板4から所望の結晶化度が得られる最適な状態で生産することが可能となる。また、レーザエネルギー値の過不足が

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基板4上の位置に依存して毎基板再現される場合には、エキシマレーザアニール3に対して、基板4の位置と過不足に対応したエネルギー制御量の増減を指令することだ可能となる。この次の基板4から所望の結晶化度が得られる最適な状態で生産することが可能となる。このように、エキシマレーザアニール装置3は、制御部28によって、レーザエネルギー値が所望の結晶化度が得られるレーザエネルギー値よりも大きいのか小さいのかが判定されて、所望のエネルギー値に制御される。したがって、製造プロセスの安定化を図ることが可能となる。

[0055]

以上説明した結晶膜2の検査方法によれば、第1工程において、結晶膜2を厚み方向一方から撮像した画像であって、予め定めるメ方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分25を有する画像8に基づいて、メ方向と交差する×方向の濃度値の分布を表す濃度値の分布特性を求める。次に第2工程において、前記濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、結晶膜2の結晶化度を判定する。このように複数列の帯状部分25を有する画像8に基づいて、濃度値の分布特性を求めておき、この濃度値の分布特性と結晶膜2の結晶化度をの間には、相関性があることを利用して、前記分布特性に基づいて結晶膜2の結晶化度を判定することができる。それ故、たとえばフーリ工変換などを用いることなく結晶膜2の結晶化度を確実に判定することができる。

[0056]

したがって前記公報に記載の従来技術のように、フーリ工変換を用いて、結晶膜の凹凸状態に一定の周期性があるものだけを検査するのではなく、本実施形態においては、結晶膜 2の凹凸状態の周期性に依存することなく、結晶膜2の結晶化度を確実に判定することができる。それ故、本検査方法の汎用性を高くすることが可能となる。

[0057]

また結晶膜の結晶化度を判定する第2工程において、濃度値の分布特性に加えて、撮像した画像全体の濃度値の平均値AVに基づいて、結晶化度を判定することができる。つまり結晶化度と濃度値とは、相関性があるが、画像全体のうち、たとえば1列の帯状部分25の中でも、与えられるエネルギーの分布特性などによって、濃度値はメ方向に沿って変動する。したがって1つの結晶膜における濃度値に対する結晶化度を、一層客観的に判断するために、撮像した画像全体の濃度値の平均値AVを求め、この画像全体の濃度値の平均値AVと、前記第1工程で求めた×方向の濃度値の分布特性とに基づいて、結晶膜2の結晶化度を判定している。したがって、結晶膜2の結晶化度を、従来技術のものよりも正確にかつ簡単に判定することが可能となる。

[0058]

前記第2工程において、白モフォロジ処理と黒モフォロジ処理とによって求められるモフォロジ分布から、予め定める寸法の濃度値成分26、27を検出し、これら濃度値成分26、27の数に基づいて、結晶化度を判定することができる。このように予め定める寸法の濃度値成分26、27を検出したうえで、これら濃度値成分26、27の数に基づいて、結晶膜2の結晶化度を判定することができるので、濃度値の定量化を行ったうえで、結晶膜2の結晶化度を、従来技術のものよりも正確にかつ簡単に判定することが可能となる

[0059]

照射手段は、円環状に形成されるリング照明12であるので、検査対象の結晶膜2に、検査光を全方位から照射することが可能となる。したがって、結晶膜2の凹凸状態に起因する乱反射による濃度値の読取り誤差を解消することができる。しかも、第1および第2方向における任意の検査位置で、結晶膜2を撮像し検査することが可能となるので、照射手段に対する結晶膜2の検査位置調整に手間がかからず検査時間を大幅に短縮することができる。またCCDカメラ11によって、メ方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分25を有する画像Sを撮像することが実現される。

[0060]

前記検査装置1および検査方法によって得られる結晶化度に基づいて、アニール処理にお

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けるエネルギーの過不足を判定し、この判定結果に基づいてアニール処理で前駆体に与えるエネルギーを制御することができるので、その制御以後、所望の結晶膜の結晶化度を実現することが可能となる。エネルギーの過不足情報は、具体的には工程内CIM(CIM:Computer Interhated Manufacturinr)を通してエキシマレーザアニール装置3にフィードバックするようになっている。

[0061]

本発明の実施の他の形態として、白の濃度値成分の数および黒の濃度値成分の数のいずれか一方のみを、結晶膜の評価に用いるようにすることも可能である。この場合には、いずれか一方のモフォロジ処理によって得られたモフォロジ分布から、予め定める寸法の濃度値成分を検出し、この濃度値成分の数のみに基づいて、結晶化度を判定することができる。したがって前記実施形態と比べて、演算対象である中央演算処理装置の負荷を軽減することができ、結晶膜の検査時間を格段に短縮することができる。

[0062]

フィルタサイズは、必ずしも午 0 、 2 午 0 、 4 午 0 、 に限定されるものではなく、たとえば 午 0 、 3 午 0 、 6 午 0 、 などの種々な多段階の設定にすることが可能である。結晶化工程で用いられるアニール装置は、必ずしもエキシマレーザアニール装置に限定されるものではなく、電子ビームおよび熱放射など各種の加熱源を用いたアニール装置を適用することも可能である。

[0063]

図19は、本発明を部分的に変更した変更形態に係り、検査装置1と、制御部28Aを有するエシキマレーザアニール装置3Aとの関係を示すプロック図である。前記実施形態においては、制御部28は、検査装置1およびエキシマレーザアニール装置3に独立して設けられているが、本変更形態においては、制御部28Aは、エシキマレーザアニール装置3Aに設けられ、このエキシマレーザアニール装置3Aに対して前記と同様にフィードバック制御を行うことができる。

[0064]

図20は、制御部28Bを有する検査装置1Aと、エキシマレーザアニール装置3との関係を示すプロック図であり、図21は、制御部と計測演算部とを有するエキシマレーザアニール装置の図20相当図である。制御部28Bを検査装置1Aに一体的に設けてもよい。またエキシマレーザアニール装置3Bに、制御部28Cおよび計測演算部29を組込み、これらエキシマレーザアニール装置3B、制御部28Cおよび計測演算部29を一体化してもよい。その他、前記実施形態に、特許請求の範囲を逸脱しなり範囲において種々の部分的変更を行う場合もある。

[0065]

【発明の効果】

以上のように本発明によれば、複数列の帯状部分を有する画像に基づいて、濃度値の分布特性を求めておき、この濃度値の分布特性と結晶膜の結晶化度を判定することができる。それ故、たとえばフーリエ変換などを用いることなく結晶膜の結晶化度を確実に判定することができる。したがって前記公報に記載の従来技術のように、フーリエ変換を用いて、結晶膜の凹凸状態に周期性があるものだけを検査するのではなく、本発明においては、結晶膜の凹凸状態の周期性に依存することなく、結晶膜の結晶化度を確実に判定することができる。それ故、本検査方法の汎用性を高くすることが可能となる。

[0066]

また本発明によれば、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定する第2工程において、濃度値の分布特性に加えて、撮像した画像全体の濃度値の平均値に基づいて、結晶化度を判定することができる。つまり結晶化度と濃度値とは、相関性があるが、画像全体のうち、たとえば1つの帯状部分の中でも、与えられるエネルギーの分布特性などによって、濃度値は第1方向に沿って変動する。したがって1つの結晶膜における濃度値に対する結晶化度を、一層客観的に判断するために、撮像した画像全体の濃度値の平均値を求め、この画像全体の濃度値

の平均値と、前記第1工程で求めた第2方向の濃度値の分布特性とに基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定している。したがって、結晶膜の結晶化度を従来技術のものよりも正確に かっ簡単に判定することが可能となる。

[0067]

また本発明によれば、第2工程において、第1のモフォロジ処理および第2のモフォロジ処理の、少なくともいずれか一方のモフォロジ処理によって求められるモフォロジ分布から、予め定める寸法の濃度値成分を検出し、この濃度値成分の数に基づいて、結晶化度を判定することができる。このように予め定める寸法の濃度値成分を検出したうえで、この濃度値成分の数に基づいて、結晶膜の結晶化度を判定することができるので、濃度値の定量化を行ったうえで、結晶化度を、従来技術のものよりも正確にかつ簡単に判定することが可能となる。

[0068]

また本発明によれば、照射手段および撮像手段を用いて、結晶膜を厚み方向一方から撮像する。判定手段は、予め定める第1方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分を有する画像に基づいて、第1方向と交差する第2方向の濃度値の分布を表す濃度値の分布特性を求める。その後、前記濃度値の分布特性に基づいて、濃度値の分布特性を求めておき、その分布特性に基づいて、濃度値の分布特性を求めておき、その分布特性に基づいては、濃度値の分布特性を求めておき、その分布特性に基づいて結晶膜の結晶化度を削定することができる。したがって前記公報に記載の従来技術のように、フーリエ変換を用いて、結晶膜の凹凸状態の周期性に依存することはなく、結晶膜の結晶化度を確実に判定することができる。それ故、本検査装置の汎用性を高くすることが可能となる。

[0069]

また本発明によれば、検査対象の結晶膜に、検査光を全方位から照射することが可能となる。したがって、結晶膜の凹凸状態に起因する乱反射による濃度値の読取り誤差を解消することができる。しかも、第1および第2方向の任意の検査位置で、結晶膜を撮像し検査することが可能となるので、結晶膜の検査位置調整に手間がかからず検査時間を短縮することができる。

[0070]

また本発明によれば、電荷結合素子を用いた手段によって、第1方向に延びる複数列の帯状部分を有する画像を、撮像することが実現される。

[0071]

また本発明によれば、非晶質膜を作製した後、アニール処理を用いて結晶膜を作製した後、前記いずれかに記載の検査方法によって得られる結晶化度に基づいて、アニール処理におけるエネルギーの過不足を判定することができる。この判定結果に基づいて、アニール処理で前駆体に与えるエネルギーを制御することができ、以後、アニール処理を用いて結晶膜を作製する際、所望の結晶膜の結晶化度を実現することが可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【図1】本発明の実施形態に係る結晶膜2の検査装置1の制御系のプロック図である。
- 【図2】結晶膜2の検査装置1の概略斜視図である。
- 【図3】結晶膜2の結晶化度を判定する工程を段階的に示すフローチャートである。
- 【図4】基板4の一表面部に、結晶膜2を形成する工程を段階的に示す概略説明図である
- 【図5】エキシマレーザアニール装置3と、帯状部分25との関係を示す説明図である。
- 【図6】レーザエネルギーと結晶化度および表面粗さとの関係を示す図表である。
- 【図7】基板4の一表面部の結晶膜2Aであって、結晶化度の低い結晶膜2Aを表す斜視図および部分拡大図である。
- 【図8】基板4の一表面部の結晶膜2Bであって、結晶化度の高り結晶膜2Bを表す斜視図および部分拡大図である。

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- 【図9】濃度値成分の数を求める方法を示すフローチャートである。
- 【図10】濃度値成分の数を求める方法を示すフローチャートである。
- 【図11】白の濃度値成分26の数を求める方法を段階的に示す説明図である。
- 【図12】黒の濃度値成分27の数を求める方法を段階的に示す説明図である。
- 【図13】フィルタサイズfとコントラストしきい値Cfとの関係を示す図表である。
- 【図14】フィルタサイズfと演算対象となる基準画素Kとの関係を示す説明図である。
- 【図15】フィルタサイズfおよびコントラストしきい値Cfの具体的な設定例を示す図表である。
- 【図16】エキシマレーザアニール装置3のエネルギーと、撮像した画像全体の濃度値の平均値AVおよび帯状部分の数区との関係を示す図表である。
- 【図17】エキシマレーザアニール装置3のエネルギーの強度と結晶膜の画像Sとの関係を示す説明図である。
- 【図18】検査装置1とエキシマレーザアニール装置3との関係を示すプロック図である
- 【図19】検査装置と、制御部を有するエシキマレーザアニール装置との関係を示すプロック図である。
- 【図20】制御部を有する検査装置と、エキシマレーザアニール装置との関係を示すプロック図である。
- 【図21】制御部と計測演算部とを有するエキシマレーザアニール装置の図20相当図である。

【符号の説明】

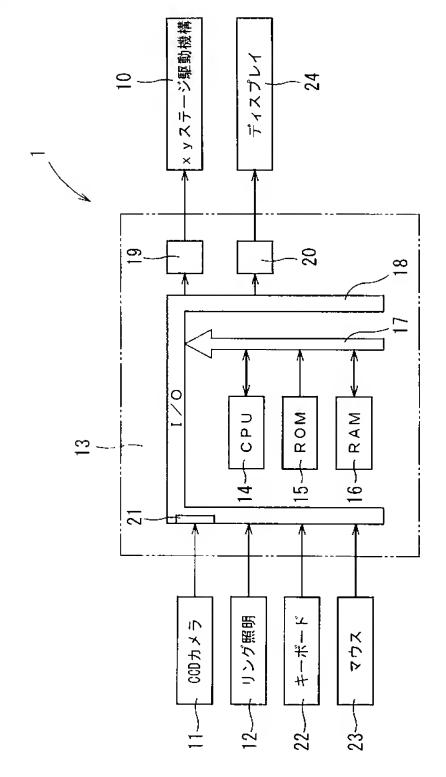
- 1 検査装置
- 2 結晶膜
- 3 エキシマレーザアニール装置
- 1 1 CCDカメラ
- 12 リング照明
- 1 8 制御装置
- 1 4 中央演算処理装置
- 15 ロム
- 16 ラム
- 25 带状部分
- 26,27 濃度値成分
- f フィルタサイズ

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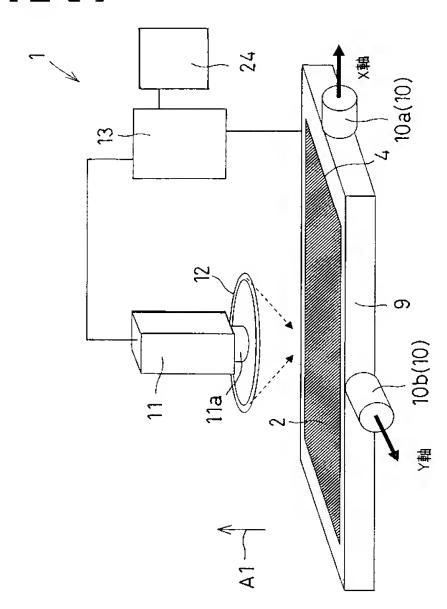
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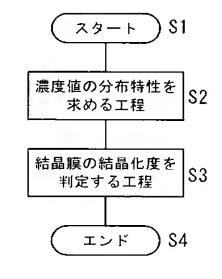
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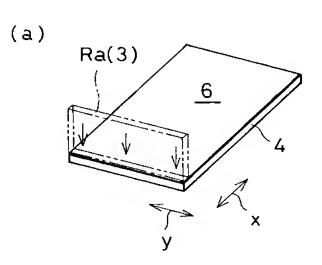
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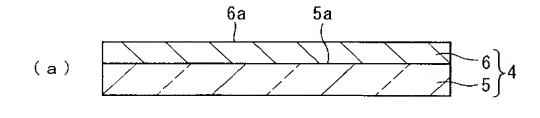
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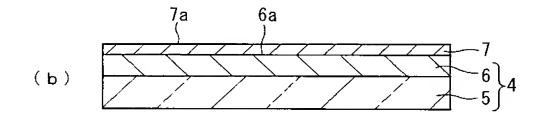


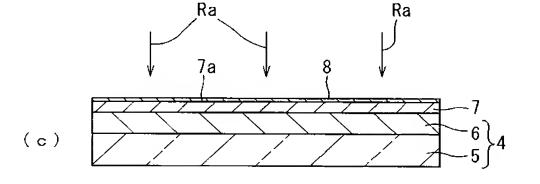
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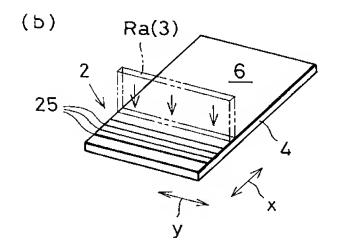


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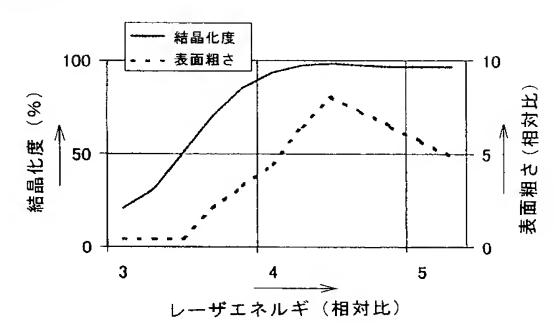




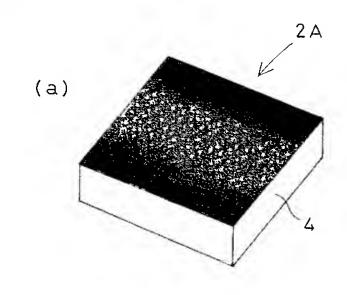


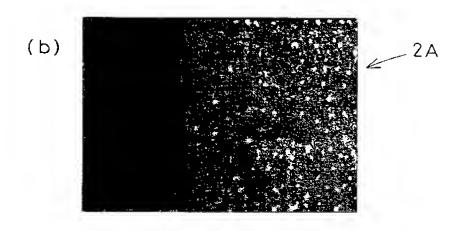


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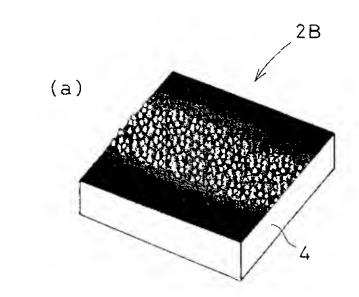


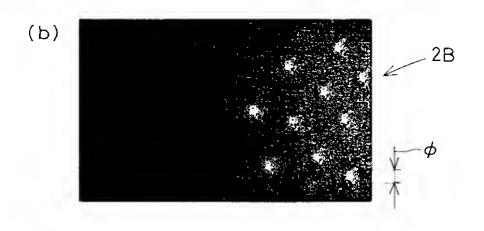
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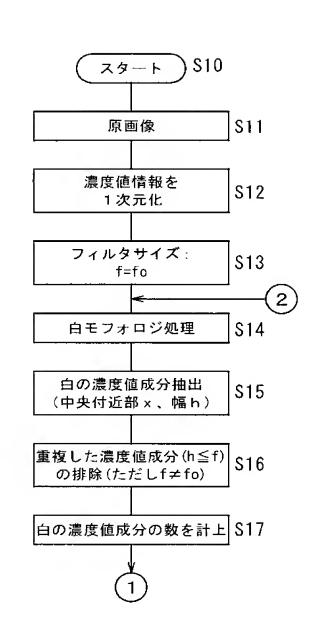


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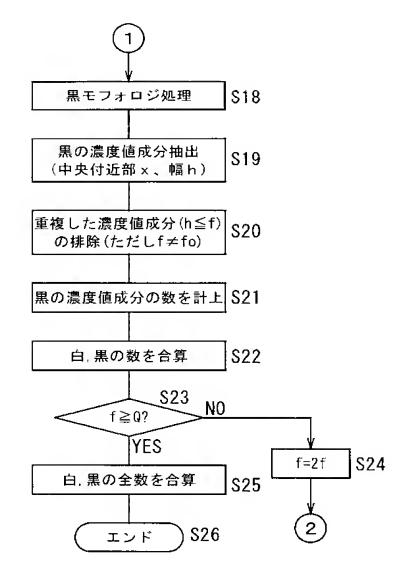




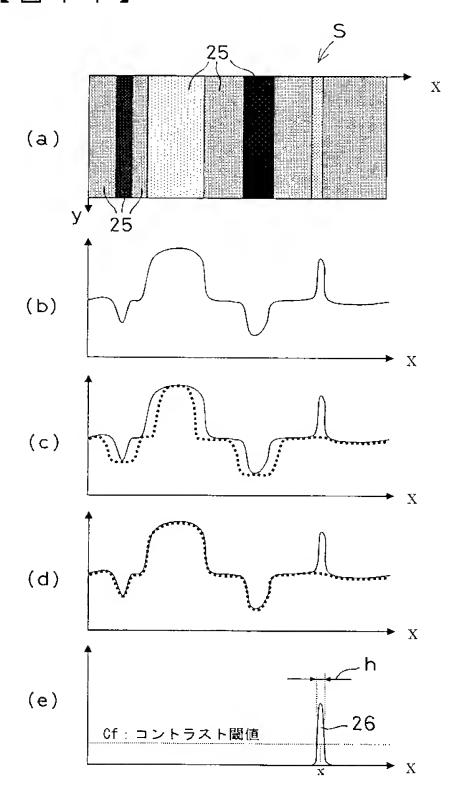
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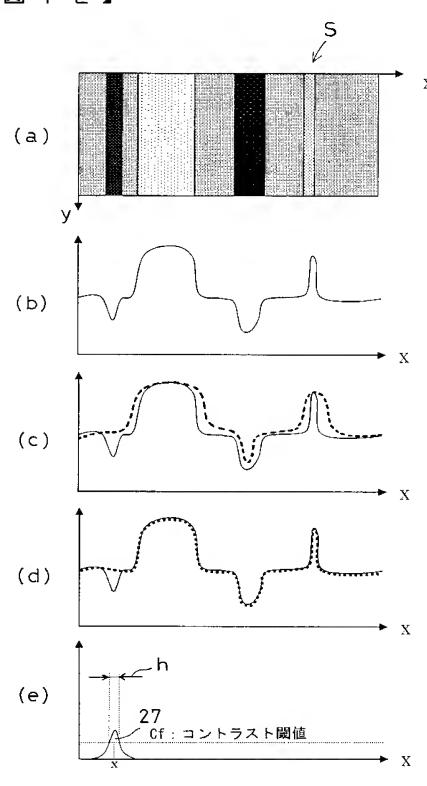
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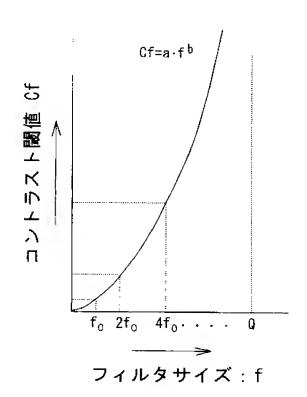
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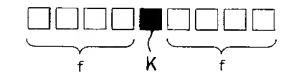
【図12】



【図13】



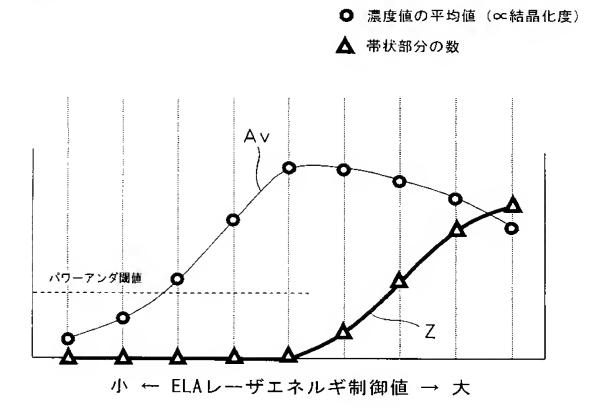
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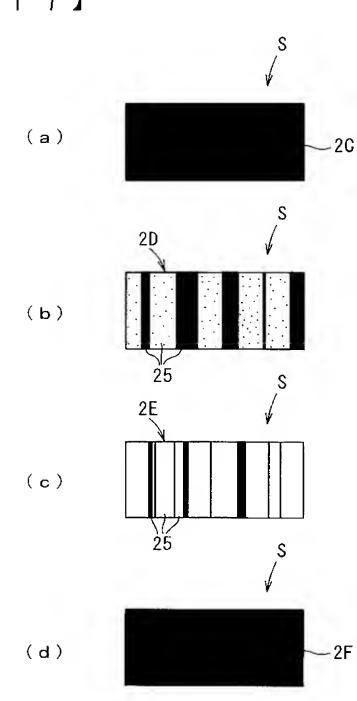
【図15】

	一般式	4	具体例 (a=1/4, b=1))
フィルタサイズ	f	16	32	64
コントラスト閾値	Cf=a · f ^b	4/256階調	8/256階調	16/256階調
演算対象画素(幅)	-f~+f (2f+1)	-16~16 (33)	-32~32 (65)	-64~64 (129)
検出対象スジ幅	f+1~2f	17~32	33~64	821~29

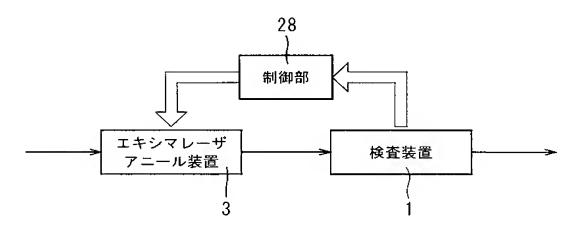
【図 1 6 】



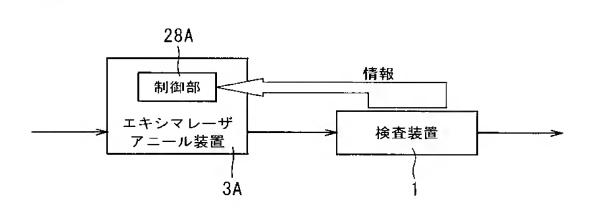
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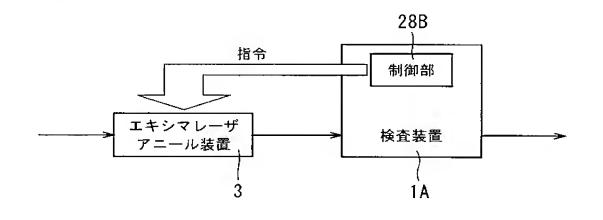
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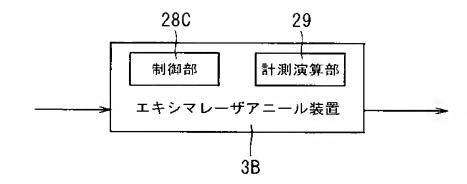
【図19】



【図20】



【図21】



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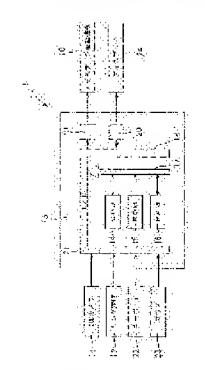
H01L 21/20

(21) Application number : 2002- (71) Applicant : SHARP CORP

215768

(22) Date of filing: 24.07.2002 (72) Inventor: SHIGEYAMA YOSHITAKE

(54) INSPECTION METHOD AND INSPECTION APPARATUS FOR CRYSTAL FILM



(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an inspection method and an inspection apparatus for crystal film with which crystallization of crystal film can be inspected accurately, a crystal film which can provide the predetermined crystallization can be formed, and the manufacturing processes can be executed stably.

SOLUTION: In a first process, distribution characteristic of concentration value indicating distribution of concentration values in a second direction crossing a first direction is obtained based on an image including the belt-shape portions of a plurality of lines extending in the predetermined first direction. In a second process, crystallization degree of a crystal film is determined on the basis of the distribution characteristic of the concentration value. Since it is possible that distribution characteristic of concentration value is

obtained on the basis of the image having a plurality of lines of the belt-shape portions as described above and the crystallization degree of the crystal film can be determined on the basis of the distribution characteristic, the crystallization degree of crystal film can be determined accurately, for example, without use of the Fourier's transform.

LEGAL STATUS

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examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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- 2.*** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

The 1st process which searches for the distribution property of a concentration value of being the image which picturized the crystal film

from thickness direction one side, and expressing distribution of the concentration value of the 1st direction and the 2nd crossing direction based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains prolonged in the 1st direction defined beforehand,

The inspection approach of the crystal film characterized by having the 2nd process which judges the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film based on the distribution property of said concentration value.

[Claim 2]

In the 2nd process,

The inspection approach of the crystal film according to claim 1 characterized by judging degree of crystallinity based on the average of the concentration value of the picturized whole image in addition to said distribution property.

[Claim 3]

[Claim 4]

In the 2nd process,

the 1st morphology processing in_which carry out minimum value-ized processing in_which the minimum value in the field appointed beforehand is calculated, and search for minimum value distribution, scanning in the 2nd direction to concentration value distribution, and carry out maximum-ized processing in_which the maximum in said field is calculated, search for maximum distribution, scanning in the 2nd direction to this minimum value distribution, and the 1st morphology distribution is searched for in quest of the difference of said concentration value distribution and maximum distribution -- and 2nd morphology processing in_which carry out maximum-ized processing in which the maximum in the field appointed beforehand is calculated, and search for maximum distribution, scanning in the 2nd direction to concentration value distribution, and carry out minimum value-ized processing in which the minimum value in said field is calculated, search for minimum value distribution, scanning in the 2nd direction to this maximum distribution, and the 2nd morphology distribution is searched for in quest of the difference of this minimum value distribution and said concentration value distribution The inspection approach of the crystal film according to claim 1 characterized by detecting the concentration value component of the dimension beforehand defined from the morphology distribution searched

for by one of morphology processings at least, and judging degree of

crystallinity based on the number of concentration value components.

An exposure means to irradiate light at the crystal film, An image pick-up means to picturize the crystal film,

It is the image which picturized the crystal film from thickness direction one side using the exposure means and the image pick-up means. It is based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains prolonged in the 1st direction defined beforehand. Test equipment of the crystal film characterized by having a judgment means to search for the distribution property of a concentration value of expressing distribution of the concentration value of the 1st direction and the 2nd crossing direction, and to judge the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film based on the distribution property of said concentration value.

[Claim 5]

An exposure means is test equipment of the crystal film according to claim 4 characterized by being the ring lighting formed in a circle. [Claim 6]

An image pick-up means is test equipment of the crystal film according to claim 4 characterized by being the means which used the charge-coupled device.

[Claim 7]

In the approach of producing the crystal film using annealing treatment, after producing the amorphous film,

The production approach of the crystal film characterized by controlling the energy which judges the excess and deficiency of the energy in annealing treatment, and is given to a precursor by annealing treatment based on this judgment result based on the degree of crystallinity obtained by the inspection approach according to claim 1 to 3.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention]

In case this invention manufactures a liquid crystal display panel, concerning the inspection approach of the crystal film, and test equipment, it relates to the technique used through the crystallization process by a excimer laser annealer etc.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

The thin film transistor of the active-matrix form where want of high resolution formed the highly efficient semiconductor device in the 1 surface section of insulating substrates, such as glass, as an actuation method in a powerful liquid crystal display component, image sensors, etc. (TFT:Thin)

Film Transistor is used. It is common to said TFT to use a thin film—like silicon semi-conductor. A thin film—like silicon semi-conductor is divided roughly into two, the amorphous silicon semi-conductor which consists of amorphous silicon (amorphous silicon), and the crystalline silicon semi-conductor which consists of the silicon which has crystallinity.

[0003]

Since it has the description that membrane formation temperature is comparatively low, manufacturing comparatively easily by vapor growth is possible, and it is rich in mass production nature, most generally the amorphous silicon semi-conductor is used. However, since physical properties, such as conductivity, are inferior in an amorphous silicon semi-conductor compared with a crystalline silicon semi-conductor, in order to acquire a high-speed property, establishment of the manufacturing technology of TFT which consists of a crystalline silicon semi-conductor is called for strongly. namely, the 1 surface section of a substrate -- plasma CVD (CVD:Chemical Vapor Deposition) -- an amorphous silicon thin film should be formed of law or reduced pressure thermochemistry vapor growth, and pass a solid phase growth crystallization process and a laser annealing crystallization process one by one by it -- the crystalline silicon semi-conductor film (it may only be henceforth called the crystal film) is formed. [0004]

The technique of inspecting the crystal film crystallized by the excimer laser annealer is indicated by JP, 2001-110861, A. On the conventional technique given in said official report, the light which has predetermined directivity in the 1 surface section of a substrate is

irradiated, the scattered reflection luminous intensity from the 1 surface section is measured, and the technique of judging the concavo-convex condition of the 1 surface section based on the measurement value is indicated. Said scattered reflection luminous intensity is measured by the Fourier analysis which paid its attention to generating of "****" which has the directivity and periodicity of the specification resulting from the laser scan in a excimer laser annealer.

[0005]

In order to determine the optimal laser energy value of a excimer laser annealer, the substrate (it is also called a power monitor substrate) for determining a laser energy value is prepared, and laser energy is given to a power monitor substrate using the laser energy value of the range appointed beforehand. the result — visual observation or Raman — a spectrum — it measures with a means like measurement and degree of crystallinity is checked. Then, a excimer laser annealer is worked using the laser energy value corresponding to the location where desired degree of crystallinity was obtained.

[0006]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

With such a conventional technique, it is premised on that there is fixed periodicity at least in the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film, and the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film is judged using the Fourier transform based on said periodicity. However, that to which the crystal film actually crystallized by the excimer laser annealer has periodicity in the concavo-convex condition is hardly found. Therefore, the technique judged using the Fourier transform based on the periodicity of the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film has being not only impractical but low versatility.

[0007]

Functionality is between a laser energy value and degree of crystallinity in a field smaller than the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained. If it puts in another way, if a laser energy value becomes large, in said small field, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film will become high. However, in the field exceeding the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained, inverse relationship nature is between a laser energy value and degree of crystallinity. If it puts in another way, if a laser energy value becomes large, in said field, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film will become low.

[8000]

Therefore, with the conventional technique, since what it depends on

lack of a laser energy value, the thing depended too much, or distinction will not stick even if a crystalline defect and degree of crystallinity are detectable, exact feedback to a excimer laser annealer cannot be performed. Since there is furthermore a limitation in laser energy control precision, and there is fluctuation of the laser energy value which is extent 5% or less about 3% or more whenever it is laser radiation for example, it not only destabilizes the energy intensity to a laser radiation object, but the crystal film will be in the concavoconvex condition of having irregular periodicity inevitably. Therefore, sufficient sensibility is not obtained in the measurement on the strength by the above-mentioned Fourier analysis.

[0009]

Raman in judgment dispersion by subjective observation of an observer occurring with the technique of checking the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film as the visual observation mentioned above is also — a spectrum — with the technique of checking degree of crystallinity by measurement, offline inspection occurs, a routing counter increases and measurement time amount increases.

[0010]

Therefore, the object of this invention is offering the inspection approach of the crystal film and test equipment which become possible [forming the crystal film with which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained, while being able to inspect the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film to accuracy], and become possible [aiming at stable operation of a manufacture process].

[0011]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

This invention is the 1st process which searches for the distribution property of a concentration value of being the image which picturized the crystal film from thickness direction one side, and expressing distribution of the concentration value of the 1st direction and the 2nd crossing direction based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains prolonged in the 1st direction defined beforehand, It is the inspection approach of the crystal film characterized by having the 2nd process which judges the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film based on the distribution property of said concentration value.

[0012]

If this invention is followed, in the 1st process, it will be the image which picturized the crystal film from thickness direction one side, and the distribution property of a concentration value of expressing

distribution of the concentration value of the 1st direction and the 2nd crossing direction will be searched for based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains prolonged in the 1st direction defined beforehand. Next, in the 2nd process, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film is judged based on the distribution property of said concentration value. Thus, based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged based on said distribution property using searching for the distribution property of a concentration value and functionality being between the distribution property of this concentration value, and the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film. So, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged certainly, without using the Fourier transform etc., for example. Therefore, only what has periodicity in the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film is not inspected like the conventional technique given in said official report using the Fourier transform, but in this invention, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged certainly, without being dependent on the periodicity of the concavoconvex condition of the crystal film. So, it becomes possible to make versatility of this inspection approach high. [0013]

Moreover, this invention is set at the 2nd process, In addition to said distribution property, based on the average of the concentration value of the picturized whole image, it is characterized by judging degree of crystallinity. [0014]

If this invention is followed, in addition to the distribution property of a concentration value, in the 2nd process which judges the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film, degree of crystallinity can be judged based on the average of the concentration value of the picturized whole image. That is, although degree of crystallinity and a concentration value have functionality, a concentration value is changed along the 1st direction with the distribution property of the energy given etc. also in one band-like part among the whole image. Therefore, in order to judge the degree of crystallinity to the concentration value in one crystal film much more objective, the average of the concentration value of the picturized whole image was calculated, and the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film is judged based on the distribution property of the average of the concentration value of this whole image, and the concentration value of the 2nd direction searched for at said 1st process. Therefore, it becomes possible to judge the degree of

crystallinity of the crystal film correctly and simply rather than the thing of the conventional technique.

[0015]

Moreover, this invention is set at the 2nd process, the 1st morphology processing in_which carry out minimum value-ized processing in_which the minimum value in the field appointed beforehand is calculated, and search for minimum value distribution, scanning in the 2nd direction to concentration value distribution, and carry out maximum-ized processing in_which the maximum in said field is calculated, search for maximum distribution, scanning in the 2nd direction to this minimum value distribution, and the 1st morphology distribution is searched for in quest of the difference of said concentration value distribution and maximum distribution -- and 2nd morphology processing in_which carry out maximum-ized processing in which the maximum in the field appointed beforehand is calculated, and search for maximum distribution, scanning in the 2nd direction to concentration value distribution, and carry out minimum value-ized processing in which the minimum value in said field is calculated, search for minimum value distribution, scanning in the 2nd direction to this maximum distribution, and the 2nd morphology distribution is searched for in quest of the difference of this minimum value distribution and said concentration value distribution The concentration value component of the dimension beforehand defined from the morphology distribution searched for by one of morphology processings at least is detected, and it is characterized by judging degree of crystallinity based on the number of concentration value components.

[0016]

If this invention is followed, in the 2nd process, from the morphology distribution of the 1st morphology processing and the 2nd morphology processing searched for by one of morphology processings at least, the concentration value component of the dimension defined beforehand can be detected, and degree of crystallinity can be judged based on the number of these concentration value components. Thus, it becomes possible, after quantifying a concentration value, since the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film was judged based on the number of these concentration value components after detecting the concentration value component of the dimension defined beforehand to judge degree of crystallinity correctly and simply rather than the thing of the conventional technique.

[0017]

Moreover, this invention is an exposure means to irradiate light at the crystal film,

An image pick-up means to picturize the crystal film,
It is the image which picturized the crystal film from thickness
direction one side using the exposure means and the image pick-up means.
It is based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more
trains prolonged in the 1st direction defined beforehand. It is test
equipment of the crystal film characterized by having a judgment means
to search for the distribution property of a concentration value of
expressing distribution of the concentration value of the 1st direction
and the 2nd crossing direction, and to judge the degree of crystallinity
of the crystal film based on the distribution property of said
concentration value.

[0018]

If this invention is followed, the crystal film will be picturized from thickness direction one side using an exposure means and an image pickup means. A judgment means searches for the distribution property of a concentration value of expressing distribution of the concentration value of the 1st direction and the 2nd crossing direction, based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains prolonged in the 1st direction defined beforehand. Then, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film is judged based on the distribution property of said concentration value. Thus, since the distribution property of a concentration value is searched for and the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged based on the distribution property based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged certainly, without using the Fourier transform etc., for example. Therefore, only what has periodicity in the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film is not inspected like the conventional technique given in said official report using the Fourier transform, but in this invention, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged certainly, without being dependent on the periodicity of the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film. So, it becomes possible to make versatility of this test equipment high.

[0019]

Moreover, it is characterized by this invention being ring lighting with which an exposure means is formed in a circle.
[0020]

If this invention is followed, it will become possible to irradiate inspection light from an omnidirection at the crystal film to be

examined. Therefore, the read error of the concentration value by the scattered reflection resulting from the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film is cancelable. And since it becomes possible to picturize and inspect the crystal film in the inspection location of the arbitration of the 1st and 2nd directions, inspection positioning of the crystal film to an exposure means cannot take time and effort, but inspection time amount can be shortened substantially. [0021]

Moreover, this invention is characterized by an image pick-up means being a means which used the charge-coupled device.
[0022]

If this invention is followed, picturizing the image which has the bandlike part of two or more trains prolonged in the 1st direction with the means using a charge-coupled device will be realized. [0023]

Moreover, after this invention produces the amorphous film, it is set to the approach of producing the crystal film using annealing treatment, It is the production approach of the crystal film characterized by controlling the energy which judges the excess and deficiency of the energy in annealing treatment, and is given to a precursor by annealing treatment based on this judgment result based on the degree of crystallinity obtained by said either by the inspection approach of a publication.

[0024]

If this invention is followed, after producing the amorphous film and producing the crystal film using annealing treatment, based on the degree of crystallinity obtained by said either by the inspection approach of a publication, the excess and deficiency of the energy in annealing treatment can be judged. In case the energy given to a precursor by annealing treatment can be controlled based on this judgment result and the crystal film is henceforth produced using annealing treatment, it becomes possible to realize the degree of crystallinity of the desired crystal film.

[0025]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

Drawing 1 is the block diagram of the control system of the test equipment 1 of the crystal film concerning the operation gestalt of this invention, and drawing 2 is the outline perspective view of the test equipment 1 of the crystal film 2. This operation gestalt shows an example at the time of applying the test equipment of this invention to the test equipment 1 which inspects the crystalline silicon semi-

conductor film 2 (it may only be henceforth called the crystal film 2) used in case a liquid crystal display is manufactured. The following explanation also includes the explanation about the inspection approach of the crystal film 2, and the control approach of the excimer laser annealer 3 mentioned later.

[0026]

Drawing 4 is the sectional view expanding and showing a substrate 4 in the thickness direction, and is approximate account drawing showing gradually the process which forms the crystal film 2 in the 1 surface section of a substrate 4. Drawing 5 is the explanatory view showing the relation between the excimer laser annealer 3 and the band-like part of the crystal film 2. The substrate 4 shown in drawing 4 (a) is seen from [which is an electric insulation ingredient / which consists, for example of glass etc.] thickness, for example, the amorphous silicon layer 6 as amorphous film is formed, and it is constituted by surface section 5a of the rectangular plate-like base material 5. the amorphous silicon layer 6 -- for example, plasma CVD (CVD:Chemical Vapor Deposition) -- law or LPCVD (LPCVD:Low Pressure Chemical Vapor Deposition) -- it is formed of law, for example, has the thickness of about 1000A or more 1500A or less extent.

[0027]

Next, as shown in drawing 4 (b), for example, oxidation liquid is applied to 1 surface section 6a of the amorphous silicon layer 6, and an oxide film 7 is formed in it of work of this oxidation liquid. The crystallization acceleration liquid besides a graphic display is applied to 1 surface section 7a of an oxide film 7, and as shown in drawing 4 (c) after that, the catalyst deposit 8 is formed in 1 surface section 7a of an oxide film 7. It is heated that the more than temperature from which crystallization of the amorphous silicon layer 6 begins, for example, almost at least 550 degrees C, is for the substrate 4 shown in drawing 4 (c) in which the catalyst deposit 8 was formed, and crystallization of the amorphous silicon layer 6 advances. After crystallization of the amorphous silicon layer 6 advances to some extent, laser beam Ra is irradiated to the amorphous silicon layer 6 using the ESHIKIMA laser annealer 3. Consequently, the amorphous silicon layer 6 is fused once and is polycrystal-ized through a cooling solidification process. That is, the crystal film 2 is formed in the 1 surface section of a substrate 4.

[0028]

The test equipment 1 which inspects said crystal film 2 has the xy stage 9, xy stage drive 10, the charge coupled device camera 11 (CCD camera:

ChargeCoupled Device camera) as an image pick-up means, the ring lighting 12 as an exposure means, and the control unit 13 as a judgment means. The xy stage 9 is a stage which carries out adsorption support of the substrate 4, and is constituted movable in x directions in alignment with the longitudinal direction of a rectangle-like stage, and the direction of y which intersects perpendicularly in the thickness direction of a substrate 4 and x directions by which adsorption support was carried out. xy stage drive 10 is a device which carries out migration actuation of a part of arbitration of the crystal film 2 selectively in a location to be examined to CCD camera 11 and the ring lighting 12. This xy stage drive 10 has x direction drive 10a which has the driving source in which migration actuation is possible for the xy stage 9 in the x directions, and direction drive of y 10b which has the driving source in which migration actuation is possible for the xy stage 9 in the direction of y.

[0029]

CCD camera 11 is supported by thickness direction one side (the arrow mark A1 shows) of a substrate 4, is arranged possible [an image pick-up of the crystal film 2 formed in the substrate 4], and is formed. This CCD camera is constituted possible [an image pick-up of the field of the shape of an abbreviation 10mmx10mm rectangle]. It consists of a halogen lamp, and the ring lighting 12 is constituted so that light may be irradiated at the crystal film 2 of the substrate 4 by which adsorption support was carried out on the xy stage 9. The ring lighting 12 surrounds the near [lens 11a] section of CCD camera 11, and it is formed so that the virtual medial axis of the ring lighting 12 may become parallel to said thickness direction, while being formed in a circle. Moreover, the ring lighting 12 is constituted so that inspection light may be irradiated from across in an omnidirection to said thickness direction in the location of the crystal film 2 to be examined. [0030]

The control unit 13 consists of the microcomputer which consists of arithmetic and program control 14 (CPU:Central Processing Unit), ROM 15 (ROM:Read Only Memory), and a ram 16 (RAM:Random Access Memory), a bus 17, an input/output interface 18, and actuation circuits 19 and 20. Arithmetic and program control 14, ROM 15, and the ram 16 are electrically connected to the input/output interface 18 through the bus 17. In the interior of a control device 13, the image board 21 is electrically connected to an input/output interface 18, and this image board 21 and CCD camera 11 are connected electrically. The keyboard 22 and mouse 23 which are the ring lighting 12 and an input means are

electrically connected to the input/output interface 18, respectively. [0031]

xy stage drive 10 and the display 24 are electrically connected to the input/output interface 18 through the actuation circuits 19 and 20, respectively. ROM 15 is asked for the distribution property of the concentration value mentioned later, and the program which judges the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2 is stored in it. This program is performed with arithmetic and program control 14. The memory which records temporarily the number of the concentration value components mentioned later is stored in the ram 16. Moreover, the picturized image S is temporarily recorded on a ram 16, and the memory for carrying out firm output to a display 24 etc. is stored in it. [0032]

Drawing 6 is the graph showing the relation between laser energy, degree of crystallinity, and surface roughness, and drawing 7 is a perspective view showing low crystal film 2A of degree of crystallinity, and its elements on larger scale in the crystal film of the 1 surface section of a substrate 4. Drawing 8 is a perspective view showing high crystal film 2B of degree of crystallinity, and its elements on larger scale in the crystal film of the 1 surface section of a substrate 4. When the laser energy of laser beam Ra irradiated to the amorphous silicon layer 6 is lower than a desired value, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film is lower than 100% of a request, and the surface roughness of the crystal film is also in a low inclination. Moreover, when the laser energy of laser beam Ra to irradiate is higher than a desired value, the surface roughness of the crystal film is in a low inclination. As shown in drawing 8, when the degree of crystallinity of crystal film 2B is high, the diameter phi of crystal grain displayed with a circle L white J upheaves more greatly than the diameter of crystal grain shown in drawing 7, for example, is formed in the diameter of about 0.5 micrometers.

[0033]

The image S of the crystal film 2 picturized with CCD camera 11 has the band-like part 25 of two or more trains prolonged in the direction of y which corresponds in the 1st direction defined beforehand. The excimer laser annealer 3 is constituted so that it may oscillate with the pulse number defined beforehand and laser beam Ra may be irradiated. Moreover, the excimer laser annealer 3 is constituted so that rectangle-like laser beam Ra which has the predetermined direction die length of y and the predetermined x direction width of face which corresponds in the direction of y and the 2nd direction which crosses in the shape of a

rectangular cross may be irradiated to the amorphous silicon layer 6 for an exposure. It collaborates in this excimer laser annealer 3, and said xy stage drive 10 or xy stage drive 10 and the drive of an abbreviation EQC, and said laser beam Ra is irradiated, sending the substrate 4 which has the amorphous silicon layer 6 in the x directions.

[0034]

Thus, sending a substrate 4 in the x directions with a certain feed rate, when the excimer laser annealer 3 oscillates laser beam Ra of the shape of said rectangle with the pulse number which can be defined beforehand, the band-like part 25 of two or more trains prolonged in the direction of y is formed in said image S. However, when it irradiates with a laser energy value quite smaller than the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained, it becomes that there is no band-like part 25. Moreover, also when it irradiates with a quite larger laser energy value than the laser energy value from which the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained is acquired, it becomes that there is no band-like part 25. For example, the abbreviation equivalent of the bandwidth of each band-like part 25 is carried out to the integral multiple of said pulse number. [0035]

Drawing 3 is a flow chart which shows gradually the process which judges the crystallinity of the crystal film 2. Si (i= 1, 2 and 3, --) shows a step here. Drawing 9 and drawing 10 are flow charts which show how to ask for the number of the concentration value components 26 and 27. Si (i= 10, 11 and 12, --) shows a step here. Drawing 11 is the explanatory view showing gradually how to ask for the number of the white concentration value components 26, and drawing 12 is the explanatory view showing gradually how to ask for the number of the black concentration value components 27. As shown in steps 1 and 2 of drawing 3, and steps 10 and 11 of drawing 9, some of substrates 42, i.e., crystal film, are moved to a location to be examined with xy stage drive 10, and light is irradiated with the ring lighting 12 at this crystal film 2. As for the image S (it is also called the subject-copy image S) picturized by CCD camera 11, the band-like part 25 is picturized in the shape of a straight line along the direction of y. [0036]

Based on the image S which has the band-like part 25 obtained at step 11, to Image S, a concentration value is equalized along the direction of y, and one dimension (M pixels) changes the two-dimensional concentration value information on a MxN pixel at step 12. If the concentration value information on Image S is expressed as {(x y) | Pxy}, the concentration

value information $\{x \mid Px\}$ formed into 1 dimension will be acquired by calculating a formula (1). Thus, the distribution property of the 1-dimensional concentration value acquired is shown in drawing 11 (b). The x direction dimension is shown in the 1-dimensional concentration value and the axis of abscissa at this axis of ordinate.

[Equation 1]

[0037]

$$P_{x} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} p_{xy} \tag{1}$$

[0038]

Thus, in steps 13 and 14, 1st morphology processing in which the white morphology distribution which is the 1st morphology distribution is searched for is performed to the concentration value distribution formed into 1 dimension, and 2nd morphology processing in which the black morphology distribution which is the 2nd morphology distribution is searched for is performed in step 18. Scanning in the x directions to said concentration value distribution, the 1st morphology processing carries out minimum value-ized processing in_which the minimum value in the field appointed beforehand is calculated, searches for minimum value distribution, can carry out maximum-ized processing in_which the maximum in said field is calculated, can search for maximum distribution, scanning in the x directions to this minimum value distribution, and can acquire the 1st morphology distribution in quest of the difference of said concentration value distribution and maximum distribution. The 1st morphology processing is also called white morphology processing. Drawing 11 (c) and drawing 11 (d) are equivalent to the 1st morphology distribution.

[0039]

Scanning in the x directions to said concentration value distribution, the 2nd morphology processing carries out maximum—ized processing in_which the maximum in the field appointed beforehand is calculated, searches for maximum distribution, can carry out minimum value—ized processing in_which the minimum value in said field is calculated, can search for minimum value distribution, scanning in the x directions to this maximum distribution, and can acquire the 2nd morphology distribution in quest of the difference of this minimum value distribution and said concentration value distribution. The 2nd

morphology processing is also called black morphology processing. Drawing 12 (c) and drawing 12 (d) are equivalent to the 2nd morphology distribution. Concretely, white morphology distribution is acquired by calculating a formula (2), and black morphology distribution is acquired by calculating a formula (3).

[0040]

[Equation 2]

[0041]

Formula (2) Min[] is a operator which elects the minimum value of the sequence of numbers in [] among - (5). For example, when performing white morphology processing (i.e., when extracting the white band-like part 25), from the distribution property, i.e., the concentration value distribution, of a 1-dimensional concentration value shown in drawing 11 (b), it is minimum value-ized processing in which the minimum value in the field f (it is also called the filter size f) appointed beforehand is calculated, scanning in the x directions, and minimum value-ized processing of drawing 11 (c) is carried out, and minimum value distribution is searched for. Next, it is maximum-ized processing in which the maximum in said field f is calculated, scanning in the x directions to this minimum value distribution, and maximum-ized processing of drawing 11 (d) is carried out, and maximum distribution is searched for. Here, the difference of said original concentration value distribution and maximum distribution is searched for, and since this white morphology processing does not revert about the band-like part 25 of white with small width of face, as shown in drawing 11 (e), it becomes possible from said filter size f to extract, the band-like part 26, i.e., the concentration value component, of white smaller than the filter size f.

[0042]

Formula (2) Max[] is a operator which elects the maximum of the sequence of numbers in [] among - (5). For example, when performing black

morphology processing (i.e., when extracting the black band-like part 25), from the concentration value distribution shown in drawing 12 (b), it is maximum-ized processing in which the maximum in the filter size f defined beforehand is calculated, scanning in the x directions, and maximum-ized processing of drawing 12 (c) is carried out, and maximum distribution is searched for. Next, it is minimum value-ized processing in which the minimum value in the filter size f is calculated, scanning in the x directions to this maximum distribution, and minimum value-ized processing of drawing 12 (d) is carried out, and minimum value distribution is searched for. Next, the difference of minimum value distribution and said concentration value distribution is searched for, and as shown in drawing 12 (e), it becomes possible to extract, the band-like part 27, i.e., the concentration value component, of black smaller than the filter size f.

[0043]

Next, in step 15 or step 19, a parameter called a location, width of face, and contrast is introduced as an approach of quantifying the description of white and a black band-like part. It is considered to the threshold of a certain suitable concentration value that the range where the pixel which exceeds it continues is one band-like part. The concentration value components 26 and 27 of the dimension which defines a location x and the maximum concentration value for the near [the direction center of a list] section of width of face h and a continuation pixel train as contrast C, applies the number of continuation pixels to drawing 11 (c) - (e) and drawing 12 (c) - (e), and defines it beforehand are detected. In step 17, the number of the concentration value components 26 of the white extracted to one filter size f is temporarily recorded on the memory besides the graphic display of a ram 16 as the number of the band-like parts 25. In step 21, the number of the concentration value components 27 of the black extracted to one filter size f is temporarily recorded on the memory besides the graphic display of a ram 16 as the number of the band-like parts 25. [0044]

Thus, since the relation that the width of face h of the concentration value component obtained is smaller than the value which added 1 the twice of the filter of size f0 is materialized, the concentration value component of the width of face exceeding the value which added 1 the twice of the filter size fo can be detected. Then, if the filter size fo is doubled as the following steps and the same steps 14-17 as the abovementioned and steps 18-21 are performed, it will become detectable \(\) the concentration value components 26 and 27 with more wide width of face].

Since the concentration value component from which the extract result at the time of doubling the filter size f0 was extracted in the filter size f0 before that is also contained, the concentration value component added up by overlapping will exist. [0045]

Therefore, as an approach of eliminating the concentration value component added up by overlapping, width of face h performs processing which does not appropriate the concentration value component not more than filter size f0 before that for a number in step 16 and step 20. However, these steps 16 and 20 are skipped at the time of the first filter size f0. Thus, in the filter size f0, the subroutine which records the number for white morphology processing of step 14, the extract of the concentration value component 26 of step 15, and its number of steps 17 on the memory of a ram 16 temporarily at the memory of a ram 16 in record, black morphology processing of step 18, the extract of the concentration value component 27 of step 19, and step 21 is performed.

[0046]

Next, in filter size 2f0 which doubled the filter size f0 two, the subroutine which adds up white morphology processing, the extract of the concentration value component 26, abatement of the duplicate concentration value component 26, appropriation of the number of the white concentration value components 26, black morphology processing, the extract of the concentration value component 27, abatement of the duplicate concentration value component 27, and the number of the black concentration value components 27 is performed. Hereafter, in filter size 4f0 which doubled the filter size f0 four, the subroutine which adds up appropriation of the number of the white concentration value components 26 and the number of the black concentration value components 27 is performed. And this subroutine is performed until the filter size f is set to Q. However, let filter size Q be the value which does not exceed the value which **(ed) Pixel N by 2. Then, it shifts to step 25, the number of each filter size f0 of white morphology processing, 2f0, 4f0, --, the concentration value components 26 of the white obtained by Q and the number of each filter size f0 of black morphology processing, 2f0, 4f0, --, the concentration value components 27 of the black obtained by Q are added together, and it outputs to a display 24. This outputted number is used for assessment of the crystal film 2 as a bandlike partial generating degree.

[0047]

Drawing 13 is the graph showing the relation between the filter size f

and the contrast threshold Cf, drawing 14 is the explanatory view showing relation with the criteria pixel K used as the filter size f and the object for an operation, and drawing 15 is the graph showing the concrete example of setting out of the filter size f and the contrast threshold Cf. Filter size is originated in each filter size f0 and setting up 2f 0 or 4f of 0, --, the contrast thresholds Cf that were most suitable for the width of face of Q25, i.e., each band-like part, by f0, and 2f visual inspection according [0, --, making it Q and a multistage story] to people 0 or 4f. That is, although the band-like part 25 with thin people is recognized even if contrast is a little low, it has the vision property ****** MTF property (MTF:Modulation Transfer Function) of not being recognized unless the band-like part 25 with wide width of face has large contrast. In order to use such an MTF property, the filter size f can be set as a multistage story, and each filter size f0, 2f0, 4f0, --, the contrast threshold that was most suitable for the width of face of Q25, i.e., a band-like part, can be set up by visual inspection. In addition, each filter size f0, 2f0, 4f0, --, Q can disregard the effect of a noise, and size with good sensibility is applied experientially. Said contrast threshold Cf can specifically be defined like Cf=a-fb as a function of the filter size f. However, a and b are taken as a constant. [0048]

Drawing 16 is the graph showing the energy-control value (it is also called a laser energy value) of the excimer laser annealer 3, the average Av of the concentration value of the picturized whole image S, and several Z relation of the band-like part 25, drawing 17 is the explanatory view showing the reinforcement of the energy of the excimer laser annealer 3, and relation with the image S of the crystal film 2, and drawing 18 is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 1 and the excimer laser annealer 3. As shown in drawing 16, if a laser energy value becomes large, between the laser energy value of the excimer laser annealer 3, and degree of crystallinity, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2 and the average of a concentration value will tend to become high in a field smaller than the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained. In the field exceeding the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained, if a laser energy value becomes large, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film and the average of a concentration value will tend to become low.

Moreover, in a field smaller than the laser energy value of the excimer

[0049]

laser annealer 3, and the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained between [several Z] the concentration value components obtained by morphology processing, it is not concerned with the size of a laser energy value, but several Z of said concentration value component is set to "0." In the field exceeding the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained, if a laser energy value becomes large, several Z of a concentration value component will tend to become large. Concretely, drawing 17 (a) is the elements on larger scale of the image pick-up image S of crystal film 2C at the time of irradiating with a quite small laser energy value, and becomes that there is no band-like part from the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained.

[0050]

Drawing 17 (b) is the elements on larger scale of the image pick-up image S of crystal film 2D at the time of irradiating with the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained, and the white band-like part 25 and the black band-like part 25 are intermingled. Drawing 17 (c) is the elements on larger scale of the image pick-up image S of crystal film 2E at the time of irradiating with a little larger laser energy value than the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained, and the white band-like part 25 and the black band-like part 25 are intermingled. Drawing 17 (d) is the elements on larger scale of the image pick-up image S of crystal film 2F at the time of irradiating with a quite large laser energy value, and becomes that there is no band-like part from the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained. [0051]

Therefore, immediately after the crystallization process by the excimer laser annealer 3, sampling inspection, inspection, i.e., the total inspection, of the crystal film 2 of all the substrates 4 produced or, of the crystal film 2 within all production—lot units is carried out. The average value Av of a concentration value, and fluctuation of several Z of a band—like part by always supervising on a display 24 When it is less than level with the average value Av of a concentration value and several Z of a band—like part is set to "0", it can detect immediately that the laser energy value is smaller than the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained. By being less than level with the average value Av of a concentration value, when several Z of a band—like part is not "0", a laser energy value can detect immediately that it is larger than the laser energy value from

which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained. Thus, the abnormalities in an output of a laser energy value can be detected immediately, and it becomes possible to eliminate, non-wanted the crystal film, i.e., the defect substrate, of degree of crystallinity, from two relation, i.e., the relation between the picturized average Av of the concentration value of the whole image, and a laser energy value, and the relation of the several Z and the laser energy value of a band-like part.

[0052]

Moreover, information on the average Av of the concentration value of the location on the substrate 4 of the image pick-up image S obtained with test equipment 1, i.e., xy coordinate, and the whole image and a band-like part, such as several Z, can be fed back to the excimer laser annealer 3 through a control section 28. The control section 28 is formed in another object in the excimer laser annealer 3. A control section 28 sends the command which mainly changes service conditions, such as a laser energy value, to the excimer laser annealer 3 based on said information.

[0053]

A control section 28 specifically Information on the average Av of said xy coordinate and a concentration value, and a band-like part, such as several Z, It has a storage means besides the graphic display which memorizes beforehand the relation between the laser energy value shown in drawing 16, and the average of a concentration value. It can judge how much excess and deficiency there were to the laser energy value from which a laser energy value is acquired for desired degree of crystallinity with xy coordinate on a substrate 4 by this.

[0054]

When [in a control section 28] a laser energy value is the lack of a constant rate, or the excess of a constant rate about the whole substrate 4 surface section as a result of a judgment, it becomes possible to produce in the optimal condition that desired degree of crystallinity is obtained from the following substrate 4 by sending the command which only a constant rate raises the amount of energy control, or lowers it to the excimer laser annealer 3. Moreover, when the ***** rendering of the excess and deficiency of a laser energy value is carried out depending on the location on a substrate 4, it becomes possible to the excimer laser annealing 3 to produce in the optimal condition that desired degree of crystallinity is obtained from the following substrate 4 by ordering it the change in the amount of energy control corresponding to the location and excess and deficiency of a

substrate 4. Thus, it is judged by the control section 28 whether a laser energy value is larger than the laser energy value from which desired degree of crystallinity is obtained, and small, and the excimer laser annealer 3 is controlled by it by the desired energy value. Therefore, it becomes possible to attain stabilization of a manufacture process.

[0055]

According to the inspection approach of the crystal film 2 explained above, in the 1st process, it is the image which picturized the crystal film 2 from thickness direction one side, and the distribution property of a concentration value of expressing distribution of the concentration value of x directions which intersect the direction of y is searched for based on the image S which has the band-like part 25 of two or more trains prolonged in the direction of y defined beforehand. Next, in the 2nd process, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2 is judged based on the distribution property of said concentration value. Thus, based on the image S which has the band-like part 25 of two or more trains, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2 can be judged based on said distribution property using searching for the distribution property of a concentration value and functionality being between the distribution property of this concentration value, and the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2. So, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2 can be judged certainly, without using the Fourier transform etc., for example.

[0056]

Therefore, only what has fixed periodicity in said official report like the conventional technique of a publication at the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film using the Fourier transform is not inspected, but in this operation gestalt, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2 can be judged certainly, without being dependent on the periodicity of the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film 2. So, it becomes possible to make versatility of this inspection approach high.

[0057]

Moreover, in addition to the distribution property of a concentration value, in the 2nd process which judges the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film, degree of crystallinity can be judged based on the average Av of the concentration value of the picturized whole image. That is, although degree of crystallinity and a concentration value have functionality, a concentration value is changed along the direction of y with the distribution property of the energy given etc. also in the

band-like part 25 of one train among the whole image. Therefore, in order to judge the degree of crystallinity to the concentration value in one crystal film much more objective, the average Av of the concentration value of the picturized whole image was calculated, and the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2 is judged based on the distribution property of the average Av of the concentration value of this whole image, and the concentration value of x directions searched for at said 1st process. Therefore, it becomes possible to judge the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2 correctly and simply rather than the thing of the conventional technique.

[0058]

In said 2nd process, from the morphology distribution searched for by white morphology processing and black morphology processing, the concentration value components 26 and 27 of the dimension defined beforehand can be detected, and degree of crystallinity can be judged based on the number of these concentration value components 26 and 27. Thus, it becomes possible, after quantifying a concentration value, since the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2 was judged based on the number of these concentration value components 26 and 27 after detecting the concentration value components 26 and 27 of the dimension defined beforehand to judge the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film 2 correctly and simply rather than the thing of the conventional technique.

[0059]

Since an exposure means is the ring lighting 12 formed in a circle, it becomes possible [irradiating inspection light from an omnidirection at the crystal film 2 to be examined]. Therefore, the read error of the concentration value by the scattered reflection resulting from the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film 2 is cancelable. And since it becomes possible to picturize and inspect the crystal film 2 in the inspection location of the arbitration in the 1st and 2nd directions, inspection positioning of the crystal film 2 to an exposure means cannot take time and effort, but inspection time amount can be shortened substantially. Moreover, picturizing the image S which has the band-like part 25 of two or more trains prolonged in the direction of y with CCD camera 11 is realized.

[0060]

Since the energy which judges the excess and deficiency of the energy in annealing treatment, and is given to a precursor by annealing treatment based on this judgment result is controllable based on the degree of crystallinity obtained by said test equipment 1 and the inspection

approach, it becomes possible after that control to realize the degree of crystallinity of the desired crystal film. The excess-and-deficiency information on energy is specifically fed back to the excimer laser annealer 3 through the inside CIM of a process (CIM:Computer Integrated Manufacturing).

[0061]

As other gestalten of operation of this invention, it is also possible to use either the number of white concentration value components and the number of black concentration value components for assessment of the crystal film. In this case, from the morphology distribution acquired by one of morphology processings, the concentration value component of the dimension defined beforehand can be detected, and degree of crystallinity can be judged only based on the number of these concentration value components. therefore, compared with said operation gestalt, the load of the arithmetic and program control which is an object for an operation is mitigable, and the inspection time amount of the crystal film can be boiled markedly, and can be shortened. [0062]

f0, and 2f thing which 0 or 4f is not limited to 0 and --, and is carried out to setting out of f0 and a multistage story with 0, --, etc. various 3f 0 or 6f are not necessarily possible for filter size. It is not necessarily limited to a excimer laser annealer, and the annealer used at a crystallization process can also apply the annealer using various kinds of sources of heating, such as an electron beam and thermal radiation.

[0063]

Drawing 19 is the block diagram in which starting the modification gestalt which changed this invention selectively, and showing the relation between test equipment 1 and ESHIKIMA laser annealer 3A which has control-section 28A. Although the control section 28 is independently formed in test equipment 1 and the excimer laser annealer 3, in said operation gestalt, in this modification gestalt, control-section 28A is prepared in ESHIKIMA laser annealer 3A, and it can perform feedback control like the above to this excimer laser annealer 3A.

[0064]

Drawing 20 is the block diagram showing relation with the excimer laser annealer 3 with test equipment 1A which has control-section 28B, and drawing 21 is the drawing 20 equivalent drawing of the excimer laser annealer which has a control section and measurement operation part. Control-section 28B may be prepared in test equipment 1A in one.

Moreover, nest and these excimer laser annealer 3B, control-section 28C, and the measurement operation part 29 may be united with excimer laser annealer 3B for control-section 28C and the measurement operation part 29. In addition, in the range which does not deviate from a claim, various partial change may be made to said operation gestalt. [0065]

[Effect of the Invention]

Based on said distribution property, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged using searching for the distribution property of a concentration value based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains according to this invention as mentioned above, and functionality being between the distribution property of this concentration value, and the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film. So, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged certainly, without using the Fourier transform etc., for example. Therefore, only what has periodicity in the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film is not inspected like the conventional technique given in said official report using the Fourier transform, but in this invention, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged certainly, without being dependent on the periodicity of the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film. So, it becomes possible to make versatility of this inspection approach high.

[0066]

Moreover, according to this invention, in addition to the distribution property of a concentration value, in the 2nd process which judges the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film, degree of crystallinity can be judged based on the average of the concentration value of the picturized whole image. That is, although degree of crystallinity and a concentration value have functionality, a concentration value is changed along the 1st direction with the distribution property of the energy given etc. also in one band-like part among the whole image. Therefore, in order to judge the degree of crystallinity to the concentration value in one crystal film much more objective, the average of the concentration value of the picturized whole image was calculated, and the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film is judged based on the distribution property of the average of the concentration value of this whole image, and the concentration value of the 2nd direction searched for at said 1st process. Therefore, it becomes possible to judge the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film correctly and simply rather than the thing of the conventional technique. [0067]

Moreover, according to this invention, in the 2nd process, the concentration value component of the dimension defined beforehand can be detected, and degree of crystallinity can be judged based on the number of these concentration value components from the morphology distribution of the 1st morphology processing and the 2nd morphology processing searched for by one of morphology processings at least. Thus, it becomes possible, after quantifying a concentration value, since the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film was judged based on the number of these concentration value components after detecting the concentration value component of the dimension defined beforehand to judge degree of crystallinity correctly and simply rather than the thing of the conventional technique.

[0068]

Moreover, according to this invention, the crystal film is picturized from thickness direction one side using an exposure means and an image pick-up means. A judgment means searches for the distribution property of a concentration value of expressing distribution of the concentration value of the 1st direction and the 2nd crossing direction, based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains prolonged in the 1st direction defined beforehand. Then, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film is judged based on the distribution property of said concentration value. Thus, since the distribution property of a concentration value is searched for and the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged based on the distribution property based on the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged certainly, without using the Fourier transform etc., for example. Therefore, only what has periodicity in the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film is not inspected like the conventional technique given in said official report using the Fourier transform, but in this invention, the degree of crystallinity of the crystal film can be judged certainly, without being dependent on the periodicity of the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film. So, it becomes possible to make versatility of this test equipment high.

[0069]

Moreover, according to this invention, it becomes possible to irradiate inspection light from an omnidirection at the crystal film to be examined. Therefore, the read error of the concentration value by the scattered reflection resulting from the concavo-convex condition of the crystal film is cancelable. And since it becomes possible to picturize and inspect the crystal film in the inspection location of the

arbitration of the 1st and 2nd directions, inspection positioning of the crystal film cannot take time and effort, but inspection time amount can be shortened.

[0070]

Moreover, according to this invention, picturizing the image which has the band-like part of two or more trains prolonged in the 1st direction with the means using a charge-coupled device is realized.

[0071]

Moreover, according to this invention, after producing the amorphous film and producing the crystal film using annealing treatment, based on the degree of crystallinity obtained by said either by the inspection approach of a publication, the excess and deficiency of the energy in annealing treatment can be judged. In case the energy given to a precursor by annealing treatment can be controlled based on this judgment result and the crystal film is henceforth produced using annealing treatment, it becomes possible to realize the degree of crystallinity of the desired crystal film.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the block diagram of the control system of the test equipment 1 of the crystal film 2 concerning the operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the outline perspective view of the test equipment 1 of the crystal film 2.

[Drawing 3] It is the flow chart which shows gradually the process which judges the crystallinity of the crystal film 2.

[Drawing 4] It is approximate account drawing showing gradually the process which forms the crystal film 2 in the 1 surface section of a substrate 4.

[Drawing 5] It is the explanatory view showing relation with the bandlike part 25 with the excimer laser annealer 3.

[Drawing 6] It is the graph showing the relation between laser energy, degree of crystallinity, and surface roughness.

[Drawing 7] It is crystal film 2A of the 1 surface section of a substrate 4, and is the perspective view and the elements on larger scale showing low crystal film 2A of degree of crystallinity.

[Drawing 8] It is crystal film 2B of the 1 surface section of a substrate 4, and is the perspective view and the elements on larger scale showing high crystal film 2B of degree of crystallinity.

[Drawing 9] It is the flow chart which shows how to ask for the number of concentration value components.

[Drawing 10] It is the flow chart which shows how to ask for the number

of concentration value components.

[Drawing 11] It is the explanatory view showing gradually how to ask for the number of the white concentration value components 26.

[Drawing 12] It is the explanatory view showing gradually how to ask for the number of the black concentration value components 27.

[Drawing 13] It is the graph showing the relation between the filter size f and the contrast threshold Cf.

[Drawing 14] It is the explanatory view showing relation with the criteria pixel K used as the filter size f and the object for an operation.

[Drawing 15] It is the graph showing the concrete example of setting out of the filter size f and the contrast threshold Cf.

[Drawing 16] It is the graph showing the energy of the excimer laser annealer 3, the average Av of the concentration value of the picturized whole image, and several Z relation of a band-like part.

[Drawing 17] It is the explanatory view showing the reinforcement of the energy of the excimer laser annealer 3, and relation with the image S of the crystal film.

[Drawing 18] It is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 1 and the excimer laser annealer 3.

[Drawing 19] It is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment and the ESHIKIMA laser annealer which has a control section.

[Drawing 20] It is the block diagram showing the relation between the test equipment which has a control section, and a excimer laser annealer.

[Drawing 21] It is the drawing 20 equivalent drawing of the excimer laser annealer which has a control section and measurement operation part.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Test Equipment
- 2 Crystal Film
- 3 Excimer Laser Annealer
- 11 CCD Camera
- 12 Ring Lighting
- 13 Control Unit
- 14 Arithmetic and Program Control
- 15 ROM
- 16 Ram
- 25 Band-like Part
- 26 27 Concentration value component
- f Filter size

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the block diagram of the control system of the test equipment 1 of the crystal film 2 concerning the operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the outline perspective view of the test equipment 1 of the crystal film 2.

[Drawing 3] It is the flow chart which shows gradually the process which judges the crystallinity of the crystal film 2.

[Drawing 4] It is approximate account drawing showing gradually the process which forms the crystal film 2 in the 1 surface section of a substrate 4.

[Drawing 5] It is the explanatory view showing relation with the bandlike part 25 with the excimer laser annealer 3.

[Drawing 6] It is the graph showing the relation between laser energy, degree of crystallinity, and surface roughness.

[Drawing 7] It is crystal film 2A of the 1 surface section of a substrate 4, and is the perspective view and the elements on larger scale showing low crystal film 2A of degree of crystallinity.

[Drawing 8] It is crystal film 2B of the 1 surface section of a substrate 4, and is the perspective view and the elements on larger scale showing high crystal film 2B of degree of crystallinity.

[Drawing 9] It is the flow chart which shows how to ask for the number of concentration value components.

[Drawing 10] It is the flow chart which shows how to ask for the number of concentration value components.

[Drawing 11] It is the explanatory view showing gradually how to ask for the number of the white concentration value components 26. [Drawing 12] It is the explanatory view showing gradually how to ask for the number of the black concentration value components 27.

[Drawing 13] It is the graph showing the relation between the filter size f and the contrast threshold Cf.

[Drawing 14] It is the explanatory view showing relation with the criteria pixel K used as the filter size f and the object for an operation.

[Drawing 15] It is the graph showing the concrete example of setting out of the filter size f and the contrast threshold Cf.

[Drawing 16] It is the graph showing the energy of the excimer laser annealer 3, the average Av of the concentration value of the picturized whole image, and several Z relation of a band-like part.

[Drawing 17] It is the explanatory view showing the reinforcement of the energy of the excimer laser annealer 3, and relation with the image S of the crystal film.

[Drawing 18] It is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment 1 and the excimer laser annealer 3.

[Drawing 19] It is the block diagram showing the relation between test equipment and the ESHIKIMA laser annealer which has a control section.

[Drawing 20] It is the block diagram showing the relation between the test equipment which has a control section, and a excimer laser annealer.

[Drawing 21] It is the drawing 20 equivalent drawing of the excimer laser annealer which has a control section and measurement operation part.

[Description of Notations]

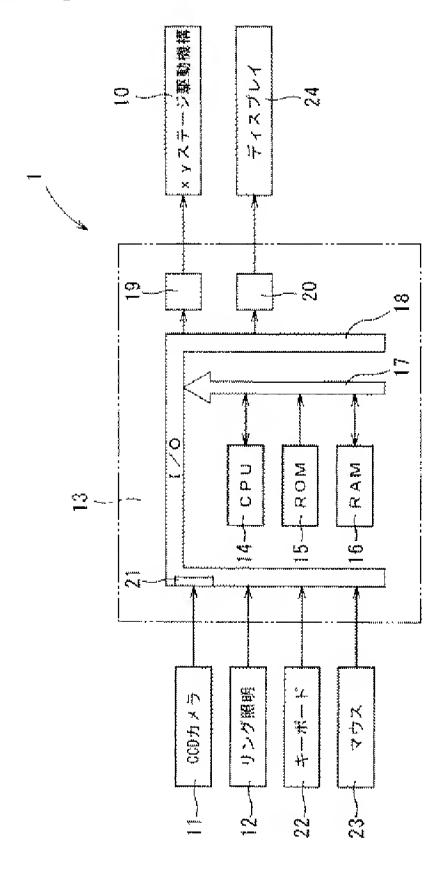
- 1 Test Equipment
- 2 Crystal Film
- 3 excimer-laser annealer
- 11 CCD Camera
- 12 Ring Lighting
- 13 Control Unit
- 14 Arithmetic and Program Control
- 15 ROM
- 16 Ram
- 25 Band-like Part
- 26 27 Concentration value component
- f Filter size

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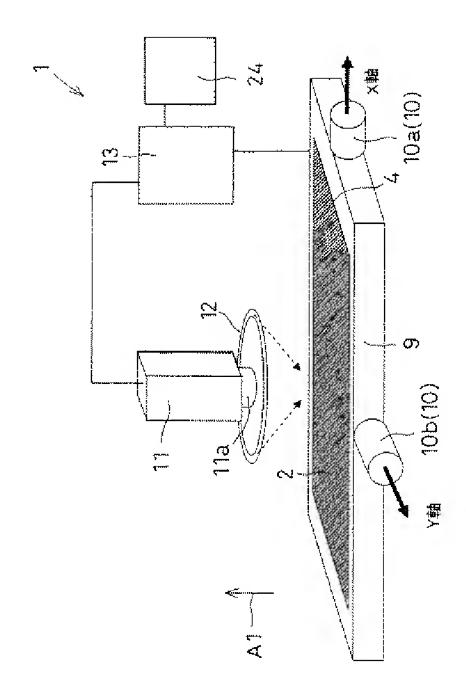
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DRAWINGS

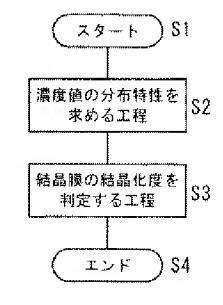
[Drawing 1]



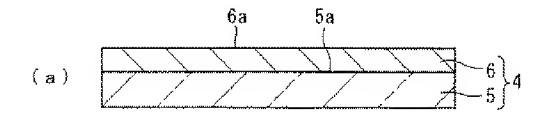
[Drawing 2]

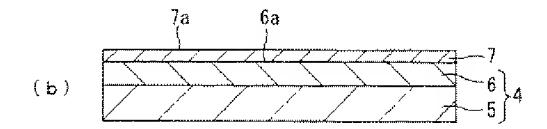


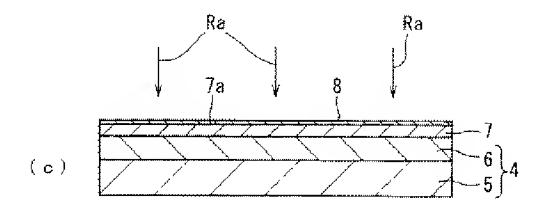
[Drawing 3]



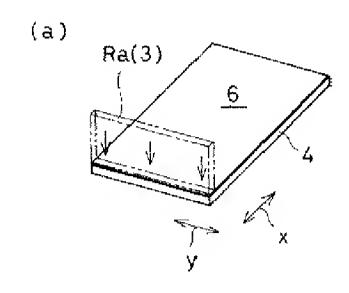
[Drawing 4]

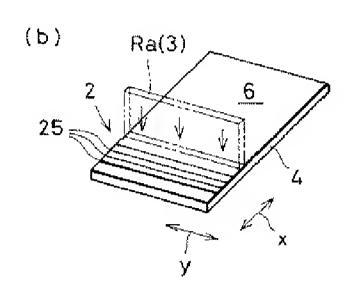




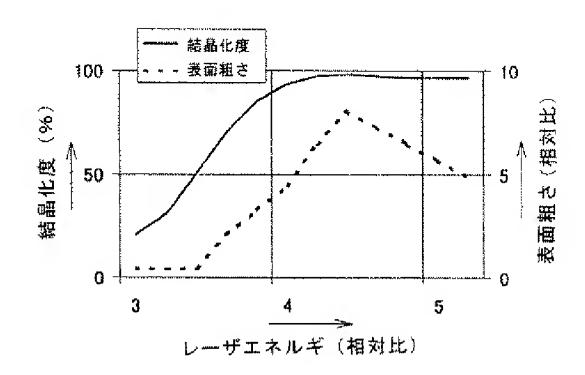


[Drawing 5]

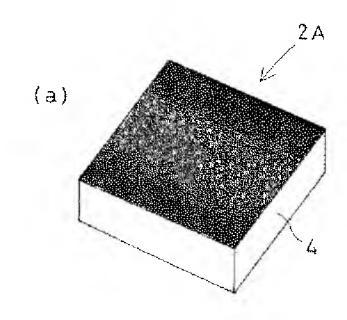


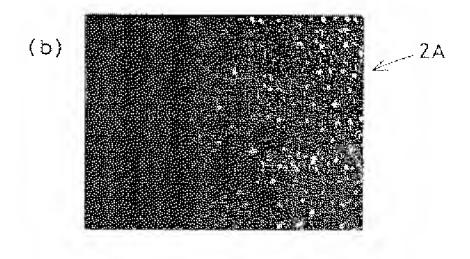


[Drawing 6]

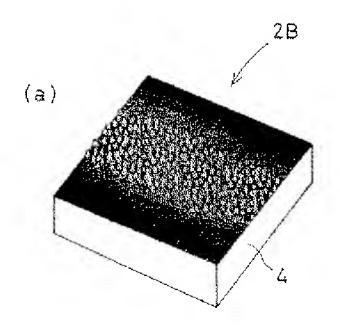


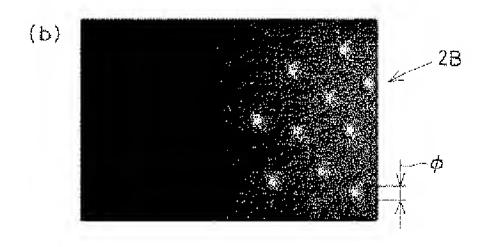
[Drawing 7]



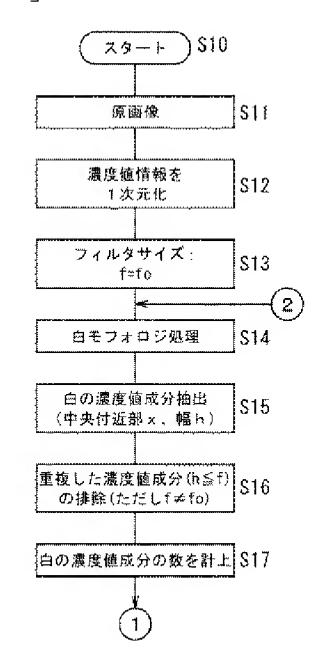


[Drawing 8]

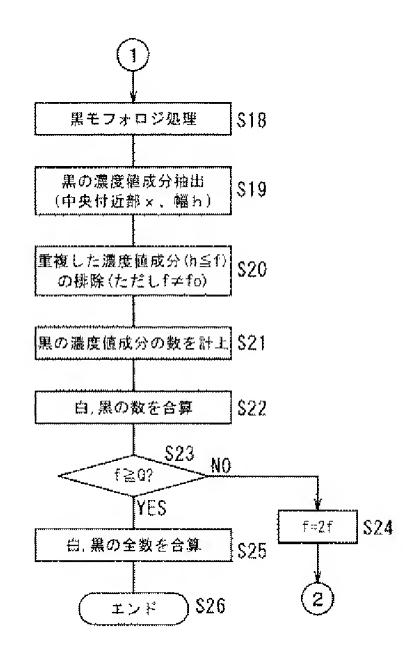




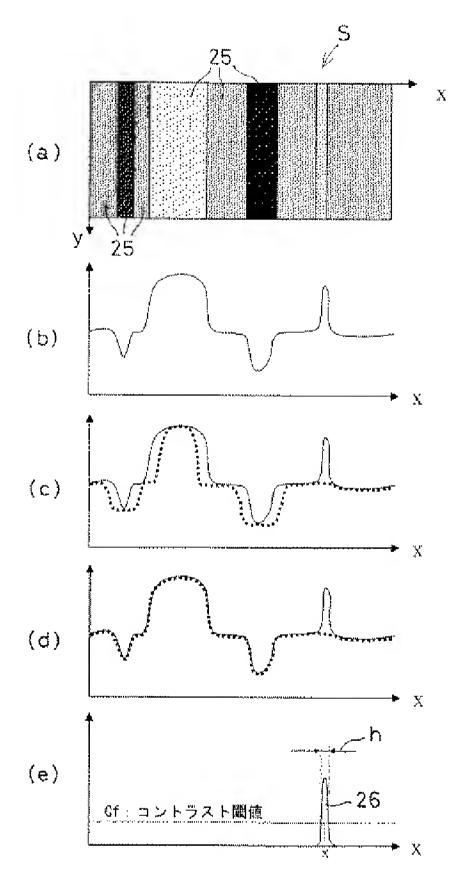
[Drawing 9]



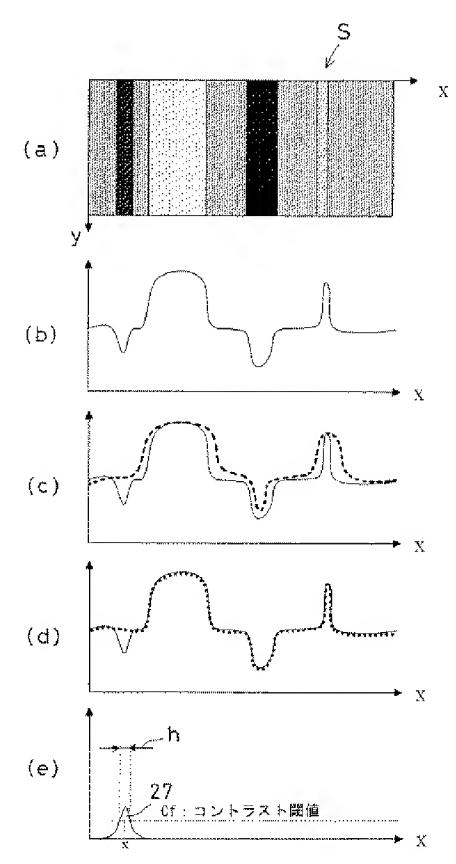
[Drawing 10]



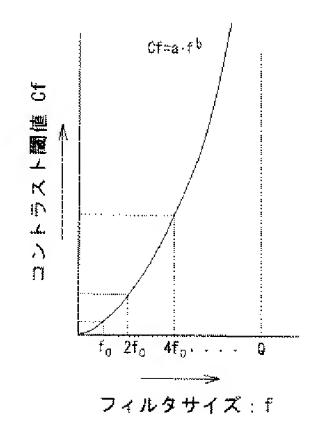
[Drawing 11]



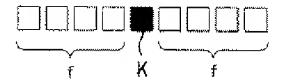
[Drawing 12]



[Drawing 13]



[Drawing 14]



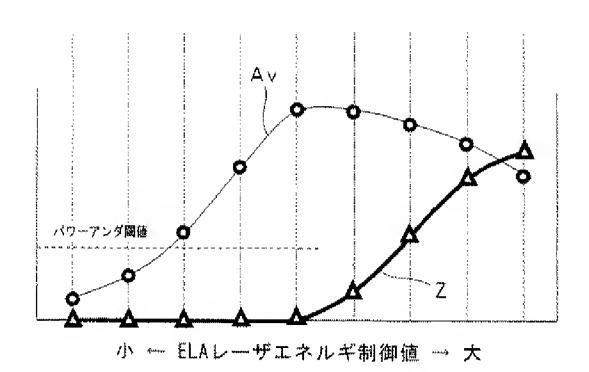
[Drawing 15]

	一般式		臭体例 (a=1/4, b=1)	(
フィルタサイズ	4	91	32	84
コントラスト関値	Cf≂a∙f ^b	4/256階調	8/256階調	16/256階翻
演算対象圏素 (幅)	-f∼+f(2f+1)	-16~(6(33)	-32~32(65)	-64~64(129)
検出対象スジ幅	f+1~2f	17~32	33~64	65~128

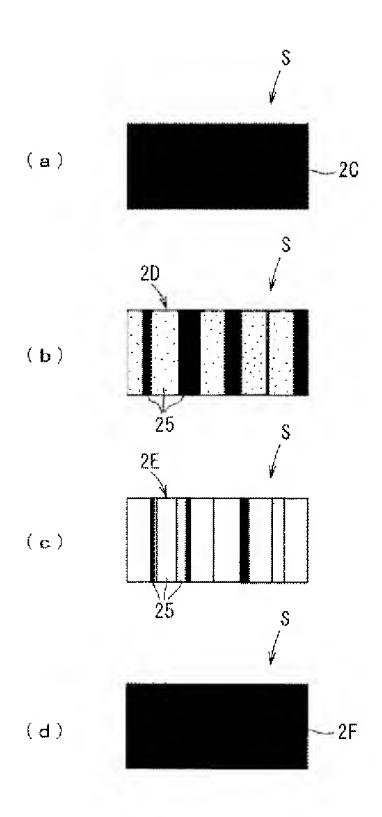
[Drawing 16]

● 濃度値の平均値(≪結晶化度)

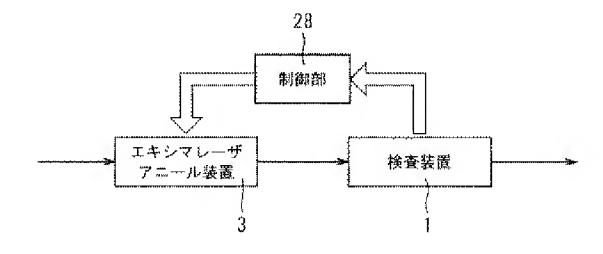
▲ 帯状部分の数



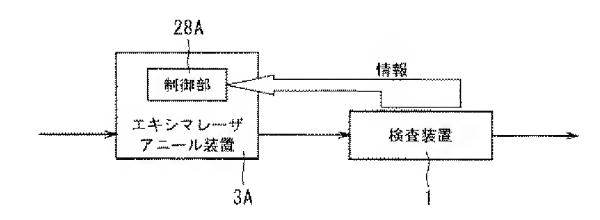
[Drawing 17]



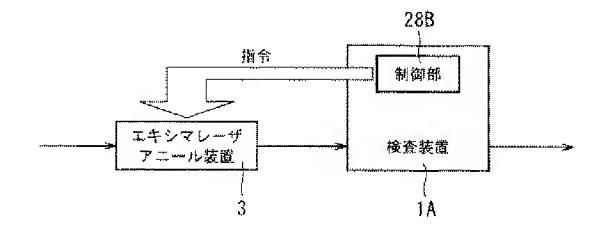
[Drawing 18]



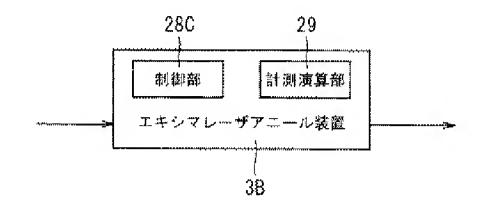
[Drawing 19]



[Drawing 20]



[Drawing 21]



......

[Translation done.]